MADRAS INFORMATION

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Readers are invited to send questions seeking clarification of [illegible] of the Government or allied matters. Answers will be published as soon as possible.

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Madras Information

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Vol. II, No. 2 "WE SEEK TO SERVE AND NOT TO COMPETE" February 1, 1948

Relaxation of Cloth Control

AFTER food, cloth. Following the Government of India's decision to relax control over the prices and distribution of mill cloth in the country, the Madras Government have also announced their policy in the matter. According to the orders issued on January 22, 1948, licensing of dealers and brokers in mill cloth and control over distribution of mill cloth have been abolished with immediate effect. Control over hand processing of cloth and fixation of prices and distribution of power-loom cloth have also been abandoned. Five control orders issued in the course of 1947 to enforce equitable distribution and sale of cloth through licensing of dealers and so on have in consequence been repealed.

WHILE control over sale and distribution of cloth is thus removed, control will continue over the export from the province of all kinds of cotton cloth and apparel made of such cloth and of cotton yarn. Export of certain varieties on handloom cloth outside the province can, however, take place now on the basis of permits issued by the Provincial Textile Commissioner and the number of such varieties will now be extended to include some utility varieties also. According to the orders currently issued, control and licensing of dealers in cotton and yarn is retained. But rationing of yarn will be abolished.

THE results of the relaxation of controls ordered will be :—

(i) Dealers can deal in any kind of mill cloth without a licence ;

(ii) There will be no restriction on the consumer purchasing any variety or quantity of mill cloth from any dealer ;

(iii) Cotton and yarn will continue to be controlled so far as their distribution is [illegible] and no one [illegible] can deal in yarn without a licence. Price control and rationing of yarn will not, however, exist and consumers of yarn will be free to purchase their legitimate requirements of yarn from any dealer ;

(iv) Restrictions on the export of mill cloth outside the province will continue, so as to obviate conditions of scarcity within the province.

RELAXATION of controls ordered postulates a steadiness in the prices of cloth and free flow of supplies to the markets, which are conditions which manufacturers and dealers can bring about. If these results are not obtained, decontrol or relaxation of control will have to be regarded as having failed in its objective and the consumers will be put to inconvenience. The Press Note issued by the Government says that "should there be indication of any abuse such as abnormal rise in prices or unequal distribution or hoarding, Government will not hesitate to re-impose the control in consultation with the Government of India."

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Matters of the Moment

Prohibition Offences

The extension of the prohibition programme in Madras Province in October last has focussed attention on some defects in the execution of that programme that have come to light. Two of those are illicit distillation and clandestine drinking by ex-addicts. Reports from the prohibition districts emphasize the prevalence of illicit distillation on a rather extensive scale, and it persists in spite of vigorous police action against those detected in the act of illicit manufacture of toddy. It cannot be too often or too strongly emphasized that the practice cannot be eradicated without the fullest co-operation between the public and the officials in charge of enforcement. The common people must be made to realize that illicit distillation is not only an offence against the law but that it defeats the objective of the moral and ethical elevation of the masses that prohibition is intended to promote, by saving them from a deleterious habit. It is only when the moral conscience of the common people is sufficiently roused and they are made to realize that not only the commission of the actual offence of illicit distillation but also withholding information about its commission to the authorities is a crime both against law and morality, that things are likely to improve. In the course of his speeches at Salem and other places during his recent tour, the Hon'ble the Premier pleaded for official-public co-operation in tackling the evil of illicit distillation and drinking on the sly. The latter is interlinked with the former for it is only when liquor is available that the craving for drink can be satisfied, and if illicit manufacture of liquor is completely stopped, clandestine drinking will stop automatically. For achieving this laudable objective not merely strict enforcement of law but moral persuasion and unremitting propaganda by the leaders of public opinion are essential. What other measures are necessary to check the evils, such as for example, imposition of collective fines on villages where illicit distillation prevails or public disgrace of those found drunk, will probably be decided upon by the Government as soon as the report of the Prohibition Enquiry Committee, which is now conducting an enquiry, is received.

* * *

Land Revenue Code for Madras

The Hon'ble the Revenue Minister has made two important observations in the course of some of his speeches during his recent tour of East Godavari District and Ceded Districts. One is that the Zamindari Abolition Bill would become law by April 1948 if not earlier, and the second is that the Government have taken up the question of formulating a comprehensive Land Revenue Code for the province and that the work has been entrusted to a competent retired officer. The Zamindari Abolition Bill is already before the Legislative Assembly and every effort is being made, subject to the demands on the time of the Legislature for other important measures, to expedite its passage into law. The Rent Reduction Bill has been passed by both Houses of the Legislature and soon steps will be taken to implement the purpose of that Legislation by the reduction of land rents in Zamindari areas to the rates of the land tax prevailing in the neighbouring ryotwari areas. This will afford an immediate and much needed relief to the tenants in the Zamindari areas pending the taking over of the Zamindaris under the Abolition legislation and the conversion of the entire Zamindari area into ryotwari. Mr. S. K. Chettur I.C.S., has been appointed as Special Officer to carry out the rent reduction work in accordance with the principles embodied in the provisions of the Rent Reduction legislation, so that by the time the Zamindari Abolition Bill is placed on the statute book, Zamindaris can be taken over on the basis of the reduced rents, which will mean relatively smaller compensation. The Revenue Minister's tour in the Telugu districts has also helped him to evaluate the damage to the crops in the area owing to the cyclonic rains in December and resulted in the Government's decision to postpone the collection of the January kist due on wet as well as dry lands in areas where the crop had been badly damaged.

* * *

Relief to Political Sufferers

The Government of Madras have sanctioned grant of land to political sufferers. According to the scheme each political sufferer will be assigned five acres of wet land or its equivalent in any single case. Two acres of dry land being normally regarded as equivalent to one acre of wet land. The lands so assigned will be free of market value but should not be sold, mortgaged and alienated for a period of ten years. Applications for the land should be sent to the Collectors of the districts concerned before a date which will be announced shortly with particulars of the suffering undergone. The Government will consider applications for collective or co-operative cultivation if 10 or more join together and apply for a plot of land.

The Government however reserve to themselves the power to decide whether any one is a political sufferer or not. For the purpose of the assignments proposed, the year 1921 will be deemed to be the year in which those political movements started. Generally the term political sufferer should be taken to mean a person who had gone to jail in the cause of Indian Independence as a result of taking part in movements inaugurated by the Indian National Congress or under its sanction. Families of those who have died in such movements and also of those who partook in such movements but died subsequently are also eligible for the grant. If there are any persons who have taken part in the political movements earlier than 1921 their cases will be considered by the Government separately.

* * *

Prohibition—A Positive Programme

Prohibition was a positive programme of reconstruction and that was why the Congress placed it on its constructive programme of Swaraj, said Mr. B. G. Kher, Premier, inaugurating the Prohibition Officers' Training class in Bombay recently.

"I have sometimes felt" he said "that the word Prohibition is not a very happy word in the context of our programme. It somehow connotes an idea of a negative act on the part of Government, whereas the Prohibition Programme is, I maintain, a positive programme of reconstruction. We prohibit alcoholism and other intoxicants so that positive good may accrue to the people in general. It was not without reason that years ago, Prohibition was put on the Congress programme as a basic need and as a part of the constructive programme of Swaraj. With the advent of Independence and the establishment of Popular Government, the count

is busy with nation-building activities. Schemes of reconstruction are planned and are being executed; but I suggest that unless the demon of drink is removed from our midst, the good effects of all those reconstruction schemes will be nullified. Therefore, it is that Prohibition is only an attempt at clearing the decks so that programmes of reconstruction may be launched with the fullest possibilities of fruition.

"I have heard it said often that in the face of food and cloth difficulties in the country, Government is wasting its energies on Prohibition, instead of concentrating its efforts on providing food and clothing for the masses. It is only those who have not understood the problems and not cared to study the benefits of Prohibition who can speak in this strain. My information is that in the Salem district, when an authentic survey was conducted by an eminent economist of the Madras University—Professor P. J. Thomas—it was found that invariably among all classes of people that were drinking toddy heavily in that district, a vast majority of money spent on drink during the pre-Prohibition days was spent on food during the post-Prohibition days. Among the mill labourers in Salem Town, the expenditure on food rose from 42·9 per cent to 55·8 per cent. Among the quarry workers it rose from 32·2 per cent to 48·1 per cent. Among handloom weavers, from 40·3 per cent to 61·2 per cent and among municipal labourers from 49·4 per cent to 61·1 per cent of the total expenditure. Similarly, the expenditure on clothes also increased among mill labourers from 6·1 per cent to 8·7 per cent, quarry workers 3·7 per cent to 6·2 per cent, handloom weavers 4·7 per cent to 6·6 per cent and municipal labourers 3·9 per cent to 6·1 per cent. It was authentically found out that more people got rid of their debts at a quicker pace, a large number of them were able to have a little higher standard of living and a good many of them were able to lay by small sums. In a country where food is very inadequate and where people hardly get two square meals a day, Prohibition made it possible to spend the money that went to the Drink Shop till now on food for the wife and children of the drunkard.

"It is not for nothing that Government will be prepared to lose 9 crores of Excise revenue. It is generally estimated that the drink bill to the community is about 4 times the Excise revenue. Thus, though Government may be losing 9 crores of rupees per year, the popular Government is thus making it possible for the community to save and utilize for its benefit about 36 crores of rupees. The gain to the community is incomparably greater than the loss to Government. There is another aspect to this question of revenue; the vocal protest of certain sections of the people in the Press is so powerful because till now the classes were used to reaping the advantage arising from the taxation on the masses. What the present Government proposes to do is merely to transfer the burden from the shoulders of the masses to those of the classes who can afford to pay. This burden was till now borne by poor workmen and other half-starved illiterate people. Therefore it is that the masses are in favour of Prohibition and as long as the masses want it and so long as Government is anxious to serve the interests of the masses, Government will have to proceed undaunted to the goal of Prohibition.

I must admit that Prohibition cannot be a success only by the best efforts of the Prohibition Officers, if they are not able to gain the support and active co-operation of the people of their districts. It is for this reason that we have appointed District Prohibition Committees, on which are leaders of the people of the districts. I hope these Committees will give the fullest co-operation, advice and help to the Prohibition Officers and make it possible to enlist the co-operation of the people."

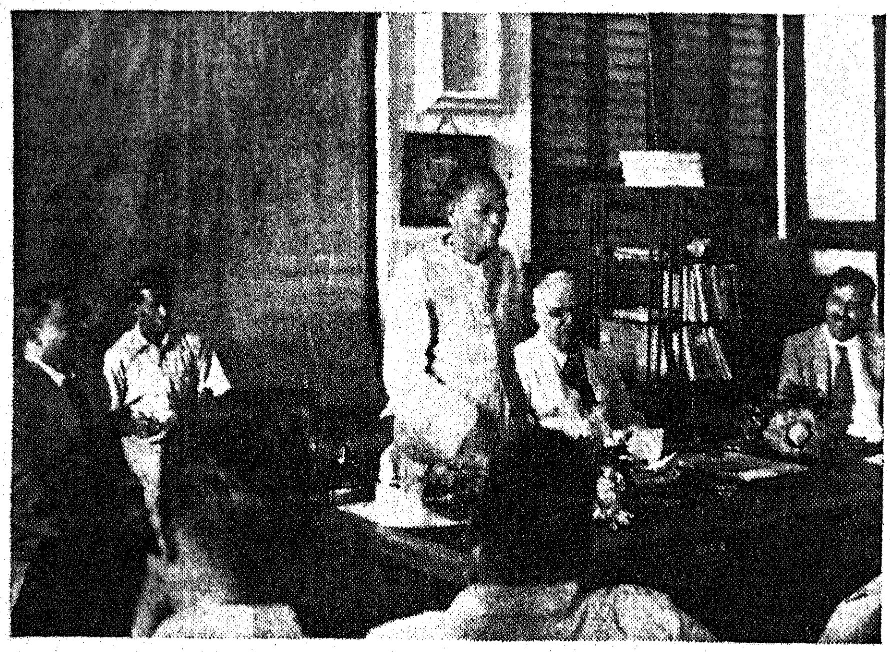
* * *

Social Workers meet

A major event in Madras City during last month was the Conference of Social Workers. It is an encouraging sign of the times that the importance of social work is being increasingly realised in the scheme of things. The need for social work is especially urgent now and in India it has to make a good deal of leeway in every field of social welfare. The State cannot possibly attend to all the aspects of human welfare. Even in the most democratic state, this is not done and the main brunt of social work there falls on voluntary organizations or associations. In India in the past it cannot be denied that a good deal of social work was turned out by voluntary or missionary organizations. All their efforts however amounted only to a scratching of the surface. The bulk of the work remains to be done. "We are here to give social service a new outlook" observed Mrs. Clubwalla in the course of her address at the Conference. "Through these years", she said, "social service organizations were the special efforts of the leading citizens and of the richer classes but what we need also, need very greatly, are the men and women workers who live and work with the people and who know the hearts and minds of the people." The Hon'ble Premier who inaugurated the Conference made some important observations. He said, "Love is the life-giving power; those without love are just human skeletons;" said the great Tamil poet Tiruvalluvar. In the days of yore, every family, particularly the womenfolk, practised charity, born out of love, and not only fed and attended to the sick and the poor, the guests and the saints but even fed the cows, dogs, birds and insects like ants. Later when Buddhism spread in this country, Buddhist monks or Bikshus dedicated their lives to this service in the faith that service to one's fellowmen is the true worship of God. Their service was not confined to our country only but spread to other countries like China, Japan, East Indies, Burma and Indo-China. The Hindu Kings who came later, the religious teachers and philanthropists built temples and mutts and through these performed the 32 dharmas like building rest-houses, choultries, tanks, orphan homes, hospitals for the sick and veterinary hospitals. The manner in which these ancient temples, Dharmasalas and mutts are being administered to-day is a sad commentary on the degradation to which we have sunk and the indifference and weakness that have overpowered us. From the time Christianity spread in the Western countries, many men and women of the Holy Order have been taking out missions with a view to spreading the gospel of service all over the world. In our country also, they have been doing excellent service through their educational and medical institutions and their personal lives of dedication. The missionaries of all religions have been doing service to all irrespective of differences of caste, religion or creed in the firm belief that the divine spark is latent in every creation of God and that service done to them is the truest offering at His altar."

The Conference discussed severa[l] important problems of social welf[are]. It is hoped that the Conference [will] prove a harbinger to an active pe[riod] of social work in this Province.

Special Development Officers' Conference



Hon'ble Mr. Daniel Thomas, Minister for Prohibition, addressing the gathering

It is a familiar saying that a tender plant needs constant watching. Once it develops into a big tree, attention can be relaxed without risk but until then it has to be watched vigilantly and conditions antagonistic or unfavourable to its growth eliminated. Similarly prohibition, like a tender plant, has yet to strike deep roots into the soil in environments which contain a number of hostile factors. So its operation has to be carefully watched and necessary steps taken from time to time to ensure that adverse factors are excluded or rendered inoperative. This is being done through periodical stock taking and formulation of measures in the light of practical experience. Recently such a stock taking was done through a Conference of Special Development Officers who are responsible for the social side of prohibition work.

The Conference was presided over by the Hon'ble Mr. Daniel Thomas, Minister for Prohibition, and was attended by Special Development Officers of the Prohibition districts as well as officers of other departments. Mr. V. N. Kudva, Commissioner of Prohibition, opened the Conference and in doing so he described the objects of prohibition as aimed at raising the standard of living of the masses and improving their economic, social and moral condition. "The enforcement of prohibition," he said, "involves the changing of the habits of a large section of the people." The work undertaken for this purpose falls roughly under three heads: (1) provision of counter attraction, (2) promotion of thrift and general welfare of the people and (3) provision of employment to ex-tappers who have been thrown out of employment. These items of work are being vigilantly attended to at present. Particular attention is being paid to the organization of Grama Sanghams to promote rural recreation and attempts are being made to interest them in a programme of rural uplift and various kinds of activities like sanitation, village communication, distribution of better seeds and manure, running of night schools, etc. So far 7,063 Grama Sanghams have been organized in the old prohibition districts and 265 in the new prohibition districts.

By far the most important work undertaken by the ameliorative staff concerns ex-addicts. Their lot is sought to be improved first by promoting thrift and secondly by encouraging people to undertake schemes to improve their resources. Thrift is encouraged under a system of savings through hundi boxes distributed through co-operative societies and the savings effected through the existing 1,850 societies is estimated to be Rs. 11·4 lakhs. "Co-operative societies", observed Mr. Kudva, "are being organized wherever possible for the pursuit of cottage industries as subsidiary occupations. The main types of co-operative societies so far organized under this head are milk supply unions, and societies, land colonization societies and Khadi spinning and weaving societies for cottage industries. A few rural housing schemes have also been formulated in Weavers' Co-operative Societies." The problem of finding employment for ex-tappers has also been carefully tackled. This problem according to the Prohibition Commissioner has not been very serious except to some extent in Coimbatore and Tanjore districts and to a large extent in Malabar and South Kanara. The Government have permitted tappers to tap sweet juice for the manufacture of jaggery and societies for this purpose have been started with about 9,000 members in the old prohibition districts of North Arcot, Salem, Coimbatore and Chittoor. The value of jaggery produced by them is estimated to be 13·12 lakhs. Thirty-one more palmyra jaggery societies with about 5,240 members have been recently formed in Malabar and South Kanara and it is proposed to organize more societies in the other new prohibition districts if necessary, and the Government have also as a special case permitted tapping of coconut trees for jaggery manufacture in Malabar and South Kanara. Twenty-one societies have been formed for the purpose. Besides jaggery making, steps are being taken to absorb ex-tappers in milk supply and land colonization schemes as well as cottage industries on a co-operative basis. Mr. Kudva also stressed the value of co-operation in making prohibition a success and exhorted the Special Development Officers to be vigilant in enlisting public co-operation in the matter.

A number of topics were discussed in the Conference and in many cases, decisions were taken. The general policy will be to entrust ameliorative work to be carried out through the rural credit societies but without interfering with the Grama Sanghams wherever they exist. The by-laws of the rural credit societies will be amplified so as to enable them to undertake recreational work. Where there are no co-operative societies in villages and where they are not functioning effectively Grama Sanghams may continue to exercise these functions. It has also been decided that steps should be taken in the case of jaggery societies to ensure that the entire juice drawn from the trees is utilized in the manufacture of jaggery.

(Continued on page 9)

A Survey of Press Notes, Releases, etc.

The Madras Entertainments Tax Act (1939) during 1946-47

The total number of entertainments, held during the year under notice, was 305,114. The tax on 290,399 entertainments, comprising over 94 per cent of the total number, was paid on the basis of returns. This method, being more convenient and less cumbrous, was very popular with the proprietors. Admission by mechanical contrivance was and adopted only on the Guindy Race Course, as in previous years.

Exemptions.—Six hundred and nineteen entertainments were exempted under Section 8 (1) and 44 under section 8 (2) of the Madras Entertainments Tax Act, 1939. The tax was compounded in respect of 47 entertainments during the year. These generally were very small entertainments.

Revenue.—The total demand during 1946–47 was Rs. 55,23,586 as against Rs. 46,18,640 in the previous year. The revenue realized during the year was Rs. 52,50,173 in cash and cheques and Rs. 1,58,041 in the form of stamps. The balance at the end of the year was Rs. 1,15,372 of which a sum of Rs. 73,139 was subsequently collected.

The collection of the tax was on the whole satisfactory. There was an improvement in the revenue position, compared with the last year's figures owing to the increase in the number of stray entertainments, exhibitions, popular films in cinema theatres and the increase in the rates of admission in the cinemas in certain districts.

Offences.—There were only four prosecutions in all, launched for non-payment of the tax in the districts of Ramnad, Madura and Tinnevelly. Eight hundred and thirty-five cases involving offences under the Act, were compounded for a total sum of Rs. 15,102 of which a sum of Rs. 13,947 was collected. Ninety-five prosecutions were launched and 38 ended in conviction and 8 in acquittal. Out of the remaining 49 cases, 34 are *sub judice*. Fifteen cases were withdrawn.

Seventy-six appeals were received by the Commercial Tax Officers during the year and 7 were pending at the beginning of the year. Out of these 83 appeals, 81 were disposed of during the year. The Entertainments Tax Commissioner disposed of 7 revision petitions. Ninety per cent of the gross proceeds of the entertainments tax were paid, according to Government's order, to the local bodies within whose jurisdiction the entertainments took place.

The working of the Act was smooth in the year under review, no legal or administrative difficulty being experienced. The assistance of the Police Department was not sought for the administration of the Act.

[January 3]

Fee Concession for Scheduled Castes

The Government of Madras have extended for a further period of three years, from the 1st January 1948, the exemption from payment of the fee prescribed for application for selection to any post or posts within or outside the purview of the Madras Public Service Commission, in respect of candidates belonging to scheduled castes (Harijans), who have passed the Intermediate Examination in Arts of any of the Universities in the Province or who have taken a degree of any of those universities or who have acquired from any other University any qualification corresponding to any of the said qualifications.

[January 7]

Textile Industry Standardization Committee's Report

In pursuance of the recommendations of the Industrial tribunal that the wage structure for the different occupations in the textile mills, should be built up on the basis of a minimum wage of Rs. 26, after an examination of the duties allotted to each worker and the proper evaluation of his work, and that a Wage Board and a Standardization Committee should be set up for this purpose, the Government appoint in their order, dated the 25th August 1947, Sri A. Uttandarama Pillai, Assistant Commissioner of Labour, Madras, as the sole member of the Wage Board with power to co-opt two assessors for labour and two for employers for each area. As, however, it was absolutely necessary to fix the number of workers required for each department in each mill before the wages can be fixed for the different categories of workers and enforced on the managements, the Government appointed a Standardization Committee with Sri A. Uttandarama Pillai, Assistant Commissioner of Labour, Madras, as Chairman, Sri M. Krishnaswami Iyer, Retired Inspector of Factories (also expert in textiles), and Sri A. Rajagopalan, Assistant Electrical Engineer (Bedeaux expert) as members of the Committee for a period of three months.

The Committee visited 23 textile mills both weaving and spinning, in the province between October 19 and December 4, 1947.

Very small mills have been excluded from the scope of the committee's work.

The Industrial Tribunal has remarked that in this Province, a spinning mill of 12,000 spindles and a weaving mill of 150 looms may be said to be economic units. The Committee found that opinions on this matter differed. According to Mr. Barlow of the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills, Ltd., Madras, economic units for spinning and weaving mills should have 30,000 spindles and 1,000 looms, respectively. In view of the existence of a large number of small units in this province, the Committee had taken a spinning mill of 12,000 spindles and a weaving mill of 300 looms as standards for purposes of working out the strength of the workers required in each department.

Under some categories into which the workers have been divided, the Committee has indicated the absolute minimum as well as the standard workload which they consider reasonable for each worker. For example, in the combing department, a worker can look after two sliver lap and ribbon lap machines or one sliver lap and one ribbon lap machines or three combing machines; but as combing is required only in a few mills in this Province spinning finer counts of yarn, and as in some of them, each worker is looking after only one sliver lap or ribbon lap machine or two combers while in others a worker is looking after two machines or two workers are looking after three machines or three workers are looking after four machines and one worker is

looking after three combers the Committee has suggested that a worker can look after one or two sliver lap machines or ribbon lap machines and two or more combers.

With reference to the workloads which have been determined after close observation and study of the working in several mills by the textile expert and the Bedeaux expert, the Committee has expressed its opinion, stating the personnel required in the different departments of spinning mills of 12,000 spindles and weaving mills with 300 looms. [January 8]

Wells under the Subsidized Scheme

The time allowed for completion of repair works to old wells subsidized under the Accelerated Schemes or the Ceded Districts Modified Scheme which under the existing rules expired on 30th June 1947, has been ordered by Government, to be extended till 30th April 1948, the concession being restricted to cases where the parties, in the opinion of the Collectors concerned, have made substantial progress in carrying out the repairs. No further extension of time will be granted.

Electoral Rolls

In Press Communique No. 48, dated the 29th October 1947, the Government announced that a list of amendments would be prepared to the rolls for the General, Muhammadan, Indian Christian and Anglo-Indian Constituencies of the Madras Legislative Assembly relating to the Madras City and prescribed the 15th January 1948 as the last date for the publication of the preliminary list. In the meanwhile it has been ordered that the re-constitution of the Madras City into 50 territorial divisions instead of the old 40 territorial divisions should take effect for electoral purposes from the 1st December 1947. If the amendments are prepared having regard to the new jurisdiction of the City and the new divisions now reconstituted the preliminary list will not match with the existing basic rolls of the Assembly as these have been prepared on the basis of the old 40 divisions and may cause confusion in the minds of the public.

In order to avoid these difficulties, the Government have decided that a fresh preliminary roll for the new 50 divisions incorporating the amendments carried out by the Corporation in rearrangement and the amendments proposed during the present revision should be prepared. This revised preliminary roll will be a self-contained one consisting of the names of qualified electors for each of the new 50 divisions and will not contain either correction or deletion entries. [January 10]

Arms and Ammunitions

The Government have directed that all licensed dealers in arms and ammunitions and military stores in the Province, should be required to place orders for supply of arms, ammunitions and military stores in triplicate through the District Magistrate or the Commissioner of Police, Madras, as the case may be, who after satisfying himself that the quantity intended is in accordance with the reasonable requirements of the trade, countersign and affix his office seal on all the three copies and keep one copy for record in his office, forward the second to the District Superintendent of Police for verification of the monthly report of stock and sales and return the third copy to the dealer for transmission to the supplying firm. The dealers are also required to inform the licensing authority and the District Superintendent of Police on receiving advice from the supplying firm when they expect to receive supply, through what channel and in what quantity. These instructions should be followed forthwith and failure to comply with them will lead to cancellation of licences.

The Government also consider it necessary that licence for the possession of arms and ammunitions granted in other provinces and made valid in this province shall have effect in this province only when such a licence together with the firearms have been produced for counter-signature before the District Magistrate or the Commissioner of Police, as the case may be.

These orders have been issued as the Government feel that in the present tension of the country, it is necessary to impose restrictions on the purchase of arms, ammunitions and military stores by dealers in this Province. [January 10]

Food Bonus Coupons

Numerous representations have been received by the Government, enquiring whether the food bonus coupons issued to the producers can be utilized for the next manuring season, in cases, where they could not be exchanged for manures during the present crop season.

In the Press Note issued by the Government on 30th September 1947, it was announced that the supply of manures (i.e., groundnut cake, chemical, fertilizers and green manure seeds) against the food bonus coupons will be subject to availability of stocks. It is therefore the intention of the Government to supply manures to all the coupon holders as quickly as possible and in cases where the coupon holders are not able to get manures for want of stocks, during the present manuring season, or where they cannot profitably use the manures during the current year, they may utilize their manure coupons during the next crop season. [January 10]

Concession to Political Sufferers

In a Press Note issued on 23rd December 1947 the Government stated that they had issued orders for the grant of land to political sufferers and that applications for land should be made to the Collector of the district concerned with particulars of the imprisonment suffered. The Government desire to make it known to all concerned that the last date for the receipt of such applications will be 29th February 1948. [January 10]

Rent Reduction in Estates

The Special Officer for the fixation of fair and equitable rates of rents in Estates, popularly known as the Special Officer for Rent Reduction, Mr. S. K. Chettur, I.C.S., took charge of his office on December 1st and has been busily at work in the office of the Board of Revenue organizing the preliminary arrangements. The area to be covered is extremely vast consisting of over 31,000 square miles and involving work in 10,000 villages in 17 districts.

The Special Officer will be assisted by no less than 12 Special Assistants of the grade of Deputy Collector who have just been appointed by Government and who will join duty on January 19th. After a preliminary three weeks training each of them will be assigned to one of the 12 zones into which the Presidency has been divided. The Special Assistants will start intensive work in their areas from about February 15th. Each Special Assistant will be assisted by a Special Deputy Tahsildar and the requisite subordinate staff.

In view of their special importance and their size, Ramnad, Vizianagram and Venkatagiri zamindaris will have a Special Assistant each. There will be five Special [illegible]

areas, five in the Tamil areas and two in bi-lingual areas. It is not possible to give even an approximate idea of how long the work will take but it is expected that concrete results will be forthcoming in a period of 6 to 9 months.
[January 11]

Transport of Paddy and Rice for personal consumption

The Government of Madras have passed orders, in supersession of the notification issued by the Commissioner of Civil Supplies, Madras, dated 18th August 1945, in connection with the transport of paddy and rice for personal consumption. The main provisions of the orders are as follows:—No person shall transport paddy or rice for personal consumption from any place in any district in the Province to any place within the Province outside that district or to any place within the Pudukkottai State, except under and in accordance with the terms and conditions of permit, issued by the Collector of the district from which the paddy or rice is transported.

The supersession of the Order dated 18th August 1945, shall not affect proceedings which have been already taken or which may hereafter be taken, in respect of anything done or omitted to be done under the said Order. All permits granted under the said order and in force for the time being shall be deemed to be permits granted under this Order.

An applicant for permission to transport paddy or rice for personal consumption from any district in the Province of Madras shall be a registered holder of land in the district from which the applicant proposes to transport paddy or rice, living in a district other than that in which his lands are situated or shall be an undivided member of a family of such a registered holder or the heir of such a registered holder, where the registered holder is dead and transfer of registry has not been effected, living in a district other than that in which the lands are situated.

Permit shall not be given for any period exceeding six months at a time, nor shall any permit so given authorize the transport of more than 24 bags of paddy, which shall not altogether exceed 36 maunds or 12 bags of rice, which shall not altogether exceed 24 maunds within a period of six months. A permit shall not authorize the transport of more than the quantity which the applicant and his family, including his servants, are eligible to receive as rations for six months or 36 maunds of paddy in 24 bags or 24 maunds of rice in 12 bags, whichever is less.

A person who imports paddy or rice from his lands will be given the usual ration card but with an endorsement thereon that he will not be allowed to purchase rations, till so authorized. If a person is entitled to more than 36 maunds of paddy or 24 maunds of rice in six months as rations for himself and his family including his servants or if he fails to get his supply from his lands he may apply to the Rationing Officer or the village munsiff, as the case may be, who will cancel the endorsement on the card or order that the holder of the card will be allowed to purchase the excess rations or his ususal rations temporarily as the case may be. In the latter case, when the person again applies for a permit, the quantity which he obtained on the ration card previously will be taken into account in calculating the quantity for which a permit should be recommended.
[January 15]

The Madras Rice Mills Licensing Order Amended

The Government of Madras, with the concurrence of the Government of India, have rescinded, with effect on and from 7th January 1948, the Madras Rice Mills Licensing Order, 1947, in so far as it extends to the districts of Anantapur, Bellary, Cuddapah, Kurnool, South Kanara, North Arcot, Chingleput, Chittoor, Coimbatore, Salem, Madura, Ramnad, Tinnevely and Vizagapatam, excepting the areas in these districts where the Madras Rationing Order, 1947, continues to be in force.
[January 12]

Libraries for firkas

With the introduction of compulsory elementary education, the supply of suitable books for the use of school-going children has become very essential. With a view to meet the needs of the school-going children and literate adults, the Government have sanctioned the opening of Central Libraries in the 25 firkas selected for intensive rural reconstruction work with branch libraries in each of the villages of the firkas. In the firkas which are already served by a public library managed either by the Local Bodies, Panchayat Boards or private associations, the library will, if possible, be taken under the control of the Government and converted into a Central Library.

The Government have sanctioned the necessary expenditure and staff for the libraries.
[January 20]

War Service Candidates

In the case of candidates with "War service" who had applied between the 1st April 1947 and the 15th November 1947 (both days inclusive), to the Special Assistant (Ex-servicemen's Resettlement) to the Collector concerned for appointments in the Subordinate Services reserved for candidates with war-service, the age-limit prescribed in the Special Rules, shall be applied with reference to the 1st July of 1947, instead of with reference to the 1st of July of the year in which the selection may acutally be made.
[January 20]

Soil Conservation Board for Nilgiris

The Government of Madras, in order to check the rapid process of erosion in the Nilgiris district as a result of denudation of hill slopes by extensive cultivation in recent years, have approved the proposal submitted by the Chief Conservator of Forests to constitute a soil conservation Board for the Nilgiris district to advise the District Forest Officer, Soil Conservation Division, Ootacamund, and to induce the co-operation of the public in soil conservation measures.

Madras Educational Rules Amended

The Madras Educational Rules and Grant-in-aid Code have been amended so as to provide that the expression of views which are calculated to bring into hatred, ridicule or contempt the beliefs or practices of any religion within the premises of school or outside will be taken as bad conduct for purpose of rule 154, and that the Director of Public Instruction shall have power to refuse grants to any institution which directly or indirectly encourages propaganda calculated to bring into hatred, ridicule or contempt the beliefs and pratices of any religion.

Harijan Uplift

No expenditure has so far been incurred from the Special Fund of Rs. 1 crore set apart for Harijan Uplift work. The Government have constituted a Provincial Harijan Welfare Committee and that Committee has been entrusted with the preparation of an immediate plan for the utilization of the sum one crore of rupees. The receipt the report of the Committe is awaited

Delhi Tidings

Science Research Scholarships Abroad

One Science Research Scholarship will be awarded this year by the Royal Commissioners for the London Exhibition of 1851 to students from Indian Universities or institutions having post-graduate departments of Science. The scholarship, which is of the value of $350 per annum and tenable for a period of two years, is intended to enable the selected student, who has already completed a full University course and whose record gives evidence of capacity for original scientific investigation, to devote himself to post-graduate research in some branch of pure or applied Science at any institution abroad approved by the Commissioners.

Subjects of the Dominion of India and Indian States, below the age of 26 years on May 1, 1948, will be eligible for this scholarship. Applications from students, whether residing in India or abroad have to be recommended by the authorities of a University or an Institution and are to be made to Provincial Governments and Local Administrations through the Universities and Institutions concerned, who would forward them so as to reach Secretary, Ministry of Education, Government of India, not later than 10th March 1948.

* * *

Nautical College for India

India, like most other maritime countries, will have a Nautical College for the higher training of merchant shipping officers if the Government accepts this recommendation of the Merchant Navy Officers' Training Committee. The Committee has submitted an Interim Report, which is under the Government's consideration.

At present the Indian Mercantile Marine Training Ship "Dufferin" gives a three-year course of training to cadets before they go to sea. But after acquiring the sea experience necessary to make them eligible to take examinations, conducted by Government, for a Mate's or Master's Certificate, they have to prepare on their own for these examinations; and it has been found that as a result an unduly high percentage of candidates fail.

In order to avoid this, the Committee stresses the importance of the establishment of a Nautical College, preferably in Bombay, to offer training facilities to candidates who wish to qualify for various certificates of competency in Navigation and Nautical Engineering. It is felt that a three to six months' course in such an institution should suffice for most of the candidates after their practical training at sea. Apart from Navigation, subjects taught in the college would include Mathematics, Astronomy, Meteorology and Law as applied to Shipping.

* * *

Speculation on Stock Markets

The Government of India have decided to take steps to eliminate speculation on the stock markets in Bombay, and necessary legislation is expected to be enacted in the coming session of the India Parliament.

The Government's plan was disclosed at a conference at the Civil Secretariat, attended by Mr. K. G. Ambegaonkar, Joint Secretary to the Indian Finance Ministry, Mr. B. Venkatappiah, Finance Secretary to the Government of Bombay, two representatives of the Reserve Bank of India, and Mr. K. R. P. Shroff, President of the Bombay Stock Exchange.

Although trading on the Calcutta and Madras Stock Markets is not speculative, the proposed legislation will be of an all-India character, so that speculation cannot be shifted from Bombay to any other city.

* * *

Increased Production

The setting up of an All-India industrial advisory council is likely to mark the second stage of an all-out drive by the Central Government to increase industrial production, according to Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookherjee, Minister for Industry and Supply, who met members of the various chambers of commerce in Calcutta recently.

The first step in this direction was the holding of the tripartite conference of industrialists, labour and the state in Delhi last month which unanimously recommended a three years' truce between employers and employees.

The proposed council, Dr. Mookherjee said, would be composed of representatives of the main industries. It would meet periodically to review the production position in the country and suggest ways and means to implement the recommendations of the industrial conference. Similar advisory bodies could be formed on provincial basis to deal with problems relating to industries in their areas.

In order to encourage increased production, Dr. Mookherjee said a "production week" might be observed next month all over India. While industrialists should accommodate all legitimate claims of labour, it was time, the Minister said, the latter also imbibed a new spirit in keeping with the changed conditions in the country. Now that alien rule was over and a people's government was in power, any action by labour which might hamper production would be a betrayal of national interest and would ultimately mean her ruination.

"Produce or Perish" should be the slogan of the day, Dr. Mookherjee emphasized.

* * *

Indian Government's 5-Year Programme

A strong plea for co-operation with the Government of India in carrying out the five-year programme for strengthening the country was made by Sardar Patel addressing nearly 200 industrialists at the Calcutta Club recently when Mr. D. C. Driver, President of the Indian Chamber of Commerce, met the Deputy Prime Minister at a tea party. Among those present were Mr. G. D. Birla and presidents of all chambers of commerce, European and Indian.

Referring to nationalization of key industries, Sardar Patel said that the Congress had adopted a resolution in this behalf long ago at Karachi but he admitted that it would be impossible to do it immediately and thought that the Government had to ask for wholehearted co-operation of industrialists, who had experience in the line such as Civil Air Service as also of labour.

Sardar Patel criticized the method adopted by the Communists for creating unrest among industrial workers. He said that the Communists dominated the All-India Trade Union Congress.

Sardar Patel, however, reminded capitalists that they must think well of labour through whom they earned money but at the same time he advised them not to yield to hooliganism

He also reminded them that India required sacrifices from all in an all-out effort to build up a new State.

* * *

Food Production

Since I took over the Food portfolio sixteen months ago, " political problems before the country have completely changed, but the work of the Food Ministry continues to be of the greatest national importance," said Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Food Minister, at a farewell function organised by the Ministry of Food, "The country's food position," continued the Food Minister " has remained difficult right through these sixteen months, and still continues to be so. If we have succeeded in resolving the crisis, in a limited measure, the credit goes entirely to those who have co-operated with us in this task, and if any mistakes have been made, the fault is mine.

Turning to the prime necessity of increasing food production, the Food Minister said that the responsibility in his direction lay on the Ministry of Agriculture. India had once been famed as the "land of milk and honey;" they should strive to reach that position once again. Although I am leaving the Ministries of Food and Agriculture, concluded Dr. Rajendra Prasad, " I shall continue to take the greatest interest in the problem of food."

* * *

Agricultural Research

A Sub-Committee of technical experts has been appointed to consider the matter from all aspects and to submit its recommendations to the Regionalisation Committee, which will meet again in Delhi soon to take a final decision.

* * *

Protection of Cattle

The Government of India have dicided to appoint an expert Committee of officials and non-officials to consider the question of cattle-slaughter in all its aspects, and to recommend a comprehensive plan of action which can be put into immediate effect for preserving the cattle wealth of the country, and for promoting its development, says a Press Note, issued by Ministry of Agriculture.

The Committee will consider of Sir atar Singh, Vice-chairman, Indian ncil of Agricultural Research, as man

In considering the subject, the Committee will pay particular attention to the following :—

(*a*) The cause and the extent of periodical variation on the supply of milk and bullock power ;

(*b*) detailed examination of the available statistics of slaughter, proportion of useful animals therein and an estimate of material loss caused thereby ;

(*c*) population trends of old and unproductive cattle and the problem of their maintenance and economic utilisation in view both of shortage of cattle-feed and of prevailing sentiments against slaughter ;

(*d*) how agencies like GAUSHALAS and Cattle Protection Societies and Salvage Centres can be utilised for preserving cattle wealth and for promoting its developments ; and

(*e*) a review of existing regulations regarding restrictions on cattle slaughter and of the administrative arrangements for the enforcement of the regulation.

(*Continued from page* 4)

As regards the marketing of jaggery the existing stores and sale societies are to be utilized for the purpose. Steps will also be taken to settle ex tappers on land wherever suitable and valuable land is available and if the land so available is close to the village. The question of organising cottage industries on a co-operative basis as well as building up of a community centre in each village were also discussed by the conference. In the case of Women Organisation, it was decided that wherever they exist they will be utilized to carry on ameliorative work particularly among women.

Successful Exorcism

For ever fled

" It is our sacred duty to help him in his noble resolve to eradicate the evil Communal hatred—Let us all shed Communal hatred "—HON'BLE PREMIER.

Indian News Gallery

Help to Local Boards in Bombay

With a view to enabling the District Local Boards to tide over their present financial difficulties, the Government of Bombay has directed that, with effect from the current financial year and pending further orders, every District Local Board should be paid a grant-in-aid equal to 15 per cent of the ordinary land revenue, including non-agricultural assessment, realized during the previous revenue year, in the Board's area, excluding the areas under the jurisdiction of the Village Panchayats and Municipalities.

The grant will be made subject to the following conditions :—

(i) The District Local Boards raise their Local Fund Cess to three annas in the rupee, unless they have already done so; and (ii) The Boards spend in each taluk at least 75 per cent of the amount realized from that Taluk on the basis of 15 per cent of land revenue.

* * *

Assistance to Agriculturists in Bombay

The Government of Bombay have decided to make available manure mixture consisting of groundnut cake, ammonium sulphate and bonemeal in the proportion of 8 : 2 : 1 to cultivators in the Kolaba and Thana districts, who ask for it. The mixture will be sold at the rate of Rs. 195 per ton. Cultivators of vegetable crops in the above districts have been advised to approach the Director of Agriculture their requirements of manure mixture.

* * *

Physical Education in Bombay

The Government of Bombay have accepted the recommendation of the Physical Education Committee for holding every year two short-term courses in Physical Education for the secondary school teachers (each for 250 teachers), one in summer and the other in winter. The syllabus which is already in use at present will be followed for the course.

The scheme is sanctioned for a period of 5 years as recommended committee.

Lift Irrigation in Bombay

In order to increase the yield of crops per acre, the Government of Bombay have started a Lift Irrigation Scheme, with a view to bringing more area under irrigation. The work of location of suitable sites and installation of engines and pumps at those sites will be undertaken immediately. The project covers the entire Province, which has been divided into four Divisions for the purposes of the work.

There are a number of perennial rivers and nallas in the Province which can be utilized for the purpose of lift irrigation. If pumping plants are installed at suitable sites, it is estimated that some 100,000 acres of land can be brought under irrigation.

* * *

Subsidy to Agriculturists in Bombay

The Government of Bombay have sanctioned the continuance of the subsidy of Rs. 15 per acre for producing hot weather irrigated crops during the year 1948, the conditions being the same as laid down in last year.

* * *

Adult Education in Bombay

Sanction has been accorded by the Government of Bombay to the payment of a recurring grant of Rs. 1,000 to the Bombay Presidency Adult Education Association, Bombay, during the current financial year.

* * *

Gigantic Reservoir of U.P.

The U.P. Cabinet has finally approved the Rihand Dam Project, which will cost Rs. 30 crores to the Provincial exchequer.

The dam will be constructed in five years near Pipri in Mirzapur district. 181,000 kwttse of electricity will be generated from the project which will provide electricity to the whole of eastern U.P. at the rate of about one pie per unit.

* * *

Education to Deaf and Dumb Children in U.P.

A scheme for imparting education to the deaf and dumb children of the U.P. envisages opening of six new Government schools in three years, one each at Benares, Bareilly, Meerut, Agra, Gorakhpur and Jhansi. According to available figures, there are about 8,000 deaf and dumb children of school-going age in the province.

Meerut will be the first place to have such a school this year. There is already one at Benares, a private institution, which in future will receive Government aid. There are also two schools, one at Lucknow and the other at Allahabad, both private, with about 100 students on the roll. These schools, too, will henceforth be subsidized by Government.

The province will thus have eight schools for deaf and dumb children.

* * *

Development Board for Pakistan

The Government of Pakistan have decided to constitute a Development Board and a Planning Advisory Board to co-ordinate Pakistan's development schemes.

The Development Board will work at Secretarial level, while Representatives of Provincial and States Governments, Commerce and Industry will be associated with the work of the planning Board.

* * *

Military Training for Students

The Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University, Shri P. N. Banerji, told a meeting of the Senate, that Government of India were willing to consider the question of compulsory military training of college students in West Bengal. He informed the House that in pursuance of repeated demands in this behalf he had been in communication with the Government of India on the subject for some time past.

* * *

Military Training in U.P. Colleges

The U.P. Government proposes to introduce compulsory military training this year in classes XI and XII of Intermediate colleges in the province's eight big cities, viz., Lucknow, Allahabad, Cawnpore, Benares, Agra, Alligarh, Meerut and Bareilly.

The trainers will be divided into battalions companies and platoons. Training will be given on two half days in a week. Every city will have a common parade ground complete with a short range.

The Education Department is contemplating to acquire the parade grounds of the auxiliary forces

being disbanded. The Government had recently appointed a committee to prepare a detailed plan for introduction of military training in educational institutions. The committee has just submitted its interim report. Its recommendations have been accepted by the Government and a beginning in military training has been made with eight cities.

* * *

Uplift of Orissa Hill Tribes

The Government of Orissa, it is understood, have sanctioned a sum of Rs. 1,00,000 to be spent immediately on the uplift of the hill tribes of the Orissa States which have now merged with the Orissa Province.

It is further understood that the Government will in the course of a few days appoint an Adibasi leader as Adviser to the Government in regard to the uplift of the Adibasis.

The Government are now examining the Thakkar Committee report which deals with the hill tribe area of Ganjam and Koraput district to see which of the general recommendations for the uplift of the hill tribes in the Orissa States can be adopted immediately.

* * *

Welfare of the Peasants

Addressing a large gathering of kisans at Sihora, Pt. Ravi Shankar Shukla, Premier, C. P. and Berar, said that Government were doing their best for the welfare of the peasants. The malguzari system would be abolished and kisans would get better irrigation facilities. A new aluminium factory with an expenditure of about two crores of rupees would soon be started at Katni, the Premier announced.

* * *

Anti-Corruption Squad's Work in Bombay

During the month of November 1947, the Anti-Corruption and the Textile Branches of the Bombay C.I.D. took action against 78 persons of whom eight were dealt with for offences relating to bribery and corruption, 19 for theft, three for black-market trading in kerosene, four for cheating, one for extortion, two for breach of the Bombay Rationing Regulations and the remaining 41 for contravention of the Textile Orders.

Spot-light on Current Problems

Rent Reduction in Estates and Agrarian Reform

Hon'ble Sri Kala Venkatarao's Broadcast

In the course of the broadcast, the Hon'ble Minister said:

In most of the estates in this Province, particularly in those in the Telugu districts, the rent levied by the landholder from his ryots is substantially in excess of the assessment charged by the Government on similar land in the neighbouring ryotwari area and is beyond the capacity of the ryots to pay. The Zamindari system has perpetuated an assessment which has no relation to the productive capacity of the land which varies from district to district. It has further led to absence of contact between the Government and the actual cultivator and has acted as a brake in regard to agricultural improvement. The irrigation works in estates are mostly in a state of disrepair. The complexities of the Zamindari system have led to an immense volume of litigation. Many of the records in the offices of Zamindars are indifferently maintained and the peasantry, most of whom are illiterate, are at the mercy of the unscrupulous agents. The Zamindari system has rarely, if ever, been as efficient as the revenue system in Government areas. There is thus discontent among estate ryots and they have been agitating for an improvement in their condition. The agrarian and political situation in estates is worsening day by day, and there is a growing agitation for the reduction of the high rents prevailing in estates. The Government therefore decided that something should be done at once to allay the discontent prevailing in the minds of the estate ryots and that, pending the major legislation for the abolition of the Zamindari system which they had then under contemplation, rents prevailing in estates should be reduced with immediate effect to the level of assessments in the neighbouring ryotwar areas. The Bill which has secured the approval of both the Houses to-day and which awaits the Governor's assent, provides for the appointment of Special Officers for the purposes of recommending fair and equitable rates of rent for the ryoti lands in the estates. The Special Officer will first determine the average rate of cash rent per acre now prevailing for each class of ryoti land, in each village in an estate, as also the average rate of assessment per acre in respect of each of the said classes of land in the nearest ryotwari area, in which conditions are generally similar to those obtaining in the estate village. In the main Bill for abolition, it is proposed to replace the existing system by a regular ryotwari settlement in all estates. We had also to proceed on the footing that speed was of the essence of the business, consistent of course with the complexity and the volume of the work involved. That being so, I am forced to admit that we have been compelled to adopt in one or two matters, the second best solutions. For example, the original proposal was to do away entirely with grain rents wherever they prevail as in some estates in Ramnad and Chittoor districts. But we found that the commutation of existing grain rents into cash rents would take far too long and so we were reluctantly forced to decide that pending a regular ryotwari settlement, the grain rents in these areas should continue but should be reduced practically in the same ratio as cash rents. The same reason was largely responsible for the retention of existing rents where they happen to be lower than ryotwari assessments. In the Select Committee and elsewhere, the main attack on this Bill as on the connected measures has been over the decision to include within its scope all estates as defined in section 3 (2) of the Estate Land Act, which, as all are aware, means also whole inam villages. The attack has proceeded on the basis that inams are entirely different in nature from Zamindaris and that there is no justification for treating the two alike in this or any other matter. The Government do not subscribe to the

view. At the moment, it is sufficient to say that this enactment seeks in the main to better the condition of the ryot who tills the land and from this point of view the inam ryot is in many areas far worse placed that the Zamindari ryot. The 1936 amendment to the Estates Land Act laid down that the rents existing on 1st November 1933 should be regarded as fixed rents and particularly in areas where rent is paid in kind the effect of this provision has been to legalize the unconscionably high rates which the ryot has to pay. If relief to the ryot is to be our object, I cannot see how Government could leave inams out of this legislation. Certain changes were made in the Bill as was originally published either by the Select Committee or by the Legislature. The first of these relates to the retention of grain rents which are now proposed to be reduced in the same ratio as cash rents. I have already referred to this matter briefly. The Bill as published envisaged commutation of all these rents. The only reason for this change was that we found we could not give quick relief if we wanted to proceed with commutation. Another provision makes the reduced rents recoverable as arrears of land revenue. Although Government have taken on a tremendous job under this provision, they regard it as the just thing to do. At the same time, they found it impossible to accept the proposal urged by some quarters that they should undertake collection here and now of the existing high rates. This would be inconsistent with our policy to reduce these rates with effect from fasli 1357. An important change accepted by the Government is the provision by which they undertake to reimburse the religious, charitable and educational institutions, the loss of income due to rent reduction. This requires no explanation. Government are aware that they are undertaking a big responsibility over this, but having regard to the demand from practically all sections of opinion, they consider it to be their duty to do so.

I do not claim that this is an ideal Bill or that it will at one stroke cure all the ills under which the estate tenant is suffering to-day. I can say with confidence that this measure will give immediate relief to more than 95 per cent of the tenants in the estates. I may also incidentally state that this attempt at rent reduction is not attempted in any other provinces of our country, where the schemes concern themselves with the abolition of the estates (zamindaris) only and not with the reduction of the rental [illegible]

In the recent Revenue Ministers' Conference at Delhi much concern was expressed about the real tiller of the soil. After all he is the man who is toiling, day in, day out, to produce our food. All schemes should aim at giving him status, both economically and politically. This brings us to the problem of tenancy reform.

I believe that for a long time to come we have to rely upon the peasant-proprietorship system. But we must recognize that in many cases the peasant proprietors of to-day are becoming either absentee landlords or are becoming renters. The relations between the peasant proprietors and the tenants who cultivate the land must be clearly defined, statutorily so as to ensure a reasonable period of tenancy to the cultivator and a share of the produce which each of the parties should be enabled to take, after meeting the cultivation expenses. This aspect has been closely examined by Sri N. Raghavendra Rao, Special Officer, appointed for the purpose. His report is being reviewed by the Government and will be published. In this connexion we have also to consider the question of the creation of economic holdings. The general complaint is that there is too much fragmentation in our country. Such fragmentation is a bar to scientific improvement of agriculture, with the result that the outturn of food produce is falling behind the increase in population in our country. So apart from the question of better seeds and better manures, we will have to create for each cultivator, whom the State wants to keep on the soil an extent of an economic holding which will yield not only sufficient food to the family but would enable him to have a marketable surplus. This of course is not an easy problem. The quality of the land will have to determine the extent of an ecnomic holding in each area. The present extent of cultivable land in our country is not sufficient for our purpose. Therefore the question has to be closely examined and the programme has got to be determined carefully. In this connexion we have to consider the question of a maximum limit for a holding by a single person as also the allied question of minimum unit for an economic holding. Such extents must have a bearing to the productivity of the soil and irrigational facilities. Therefore, there cannot be any uniform extent of land that can be prescribed for this purpose. The extent will have to vary according to the criteria mentioned just now. This will now bring us to the question of

I do not like to deal with this subject *in extenso* in the limited time available for me just now. Co-operative farming must be secured by the willing acquiescence of the people and not by coercion. I think that by bringing together owners of fragmented holdings and by making them to cultivate their land as a single unit without disturbing their ownership much can be achieved in this line. Perhaps in our country co-operative farming fits in better than collectivization. Nonetheless I am not averse to certain experiments at State farming. We have available large plots of uncultivated and cultivable land in our Presidency. These are sub-marginal lands whose return is not commensurate with good profit unless proper development of the region is undertaken. I do hope that at an early date we will be able to start some of these schemes which will serve as models for the rest of the country.

Scarcity of the means of satisfying our wants is the chief characteristic of our economic problem. Our agricultural land is very much overburdened and the social and moral position of the surplus agricultural population is very deplorable. Unless we improve the efficiency and thereby increase the productivity, our food problem will become very serious in the years to come. Bitterness of unemployment, misery of undernourishment, and the multitude of psychological ills that derive from social instability and the economic uncertainty should not be allowed to play their part in India of the future. Land reforms by themselves alone will not solve all these problems. They will have to be tackled on a more human plane by creating conditions that will make the tiller of the soil the master of the realm. I am perfectly certain that the great culture of our country will enable us to solve these great problems and we will be able to create a happy, contended and care-free tenant in our free India. Let us all unite our efforts to that end.

—*By courtesy of A.I.R., Madras.*

Advice to Local Board Employees in U.P.

'Poverty was never considered to be humiliating in our country. Specially where both the employers and employees are poor, there is nothing to be grumbled. It is a secondary thing whether you are paid or not but to get an opportunity to serve the humanity is a great privilege. Serve the down-troden, poverty-stricken humanity in a missionary spirit,' said Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant, the U.P. Premier inaugurating the U.P. District Boa[rd]

Future of Arecanut Industry in India

Problems of Marketing and Research

The growing of arecanut is a matter of vital economic consequence to thousands of families whose chief means of livelihood is the proceeds of the yield of the arecanut palms they cultivate on their small plots of land, said Sir Datar Singh, Vice-Chairman, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, addressing a meeting of the Ad Hoc Arecanut Committee, which met in New Delhi on November 3 to consider various problems connected with the arecanut industry.

Sir Datar Singh revealed that on the basis of the figures of average production, exports and imports of arecanuts for the ten years ending 1945, the total annual consumption of arecanuts in India was 6,047,000 maunds valued at more than Rs. 30 crores.

It has been estimated that the total area under arecanut in India and Pakistan is 523,400 acres, of which about 3,000 acres are in West Bengal and 262,700 acres in East Bengal, 29,200 acres are in Assam and 227,800 acres in the Provinces of Madras, Bombay and Coorg and the States of Mysore, Cochin and Travancore. The total annual production of arecanuts in India and Pakistan is estimated at 4,810,800 maunds valued at about Rs. 25 crores.

In spite of the importance of the crop, adequate attention has not been paid to the various problems connected with the industry. The result is that those problems have now accumulated in number and extent and are clamouring for effective consideration. At the same time, peace has brought the problem of competition from foreign countries to the fore again and has brought a new awareness of the grower of the backwardness of the whole industry.

During the summer of 1945, representations were made to the Control Board of Revenue by individual producers as well as their associations from South India regarding the deplorable plight of the industry, of the heavy cost of cultivation that the growers have to bear and the lack of adequate returns to them, mainly due to the absence of scientific research to improve cultivation and augment production, the ravages wrought by the Mahali disease and the ill-developed methods of marketing in vogue at present.

The possibilities of cheap and heavy imports of arecanuts from the Strait Settlements, Ceylon, etc., and their effect on the local prices were also [illegible]d by them. They demanded some control with a view to regulating the marketing of local and imported nuts and to ameliorating their economic position. At the request of the Central Board of Revenue, the Agricultural Marketing Adviser arranged for a rapid marketing survey of the Arecanut Industry in India.

The Central Government also allotted a sum of Rs. 3 lakhs in 1946–47 and Rs. 5 lakhs in 1947–48 for improving and developing the production and marketing of arecanuts in the country. Based on the Agricultural Marketing Adviser's report and the information collected from the trade and other sources certain recommendations have been formulated for fostering the industry and the Ad Hoc Committee was called to decide how best the industry could be developed.

Co-operative Marketing

The arecanut industry is confronted with short-term and long-term problems. Among the former are question of co-operative merketing and certain immediate items of agricultural work.

Short-term work on the agricultural side comprises the adoption of measures for effectively combating the diseases by methods already known, the distribution of good quality seedlings and experimentation to ascertain how far manuring, irrigation and intercultivation could help to stop up production and to improve its quality.

Long-term problems can again be examined from the agricultural, technological and economic points of view. Hardly any scientific research work worth the name has been done on the arecanut till now. A lot of work has, therefore, to be done on the fundamental and genetical aspects of arecanut cultivation. The possibility of evolving disease-resisting strains of areca palms has also to be studied.

Central Research

The arecanut has its technological problems, too. The proper utilization of the several parts of the tree, such as the husk of the nut, the leaf, the leaf sheath, which are now practically wasted, the extended use of the nut itself and the formulation of methods for the better curing and processing of nuts, all require to be investigated. There appears, therefore, a great need for setting up a Central Research Station for attending to all these problems.

The scope of research may not, however, be limited to the Central Research Station. Particular arecanut growing regions may have their special local problems and those will have to be tackled by regional research stations. These regional stations could very well be set up on the model of similar stations sponsored by the Indian Central Coconut Committee which meets, in respect of them, 50 per cent of the recurring expenditure, the other 50 per cent of the recurring expenditure and the non-recurring expenditure, being met by the provincial or State Government concerned.

In fact, the problems of agricultural research relating to the arecanut appear to be quite akin to those of the coconut. Both are perennial crops and the trees come to the bearing stage only seven to ten years after planting. Both are grown, at any rate in large areas of the south, in the same gardens as mixed crops.

From the long-range economic point of view, the organization of regulated markets for arecanuts assumes considerable importance, and it may have to be recommended to the Provincial or State Governments to introduce legislation for the purpose. There is also need for drawing up grade specifications for arecanut to supplement the benefits that the regulated markets and the co-operative marketing societies may yield.

Statistical Data

"I would emphasise", Sir Datar Singh said, "the importance of having correct statistics of acreage and production, so that we may have accurate crop forecasts and determine the extent to which imports are needed. Measures will have to be devised for the purpose and put through by the Governments with financial aid from the Arecanut Development Fund, if found possible. Statistics of inter-provincial movements of the commodity also have to be recorded and movement by rail encouraged by securing freight concessions."

The Committee decided to recommend (i) that immediate measures be taken to set up an Arecanut Committee which should be administered by the Secretariat of the Indian Central Coconut Committee; (ii) that a network of co-operative credit-cum-sale societies be organized to improve arecanut marketing; (iii) that the Bombay scheme of investigation into the Band disease of the arecanut palm be financed by the Arecanut Committee and the Bombay Government; and (iv) the question of organizing other ite[illegible] of work be considered after the prelim[illegible]naries connected with the setting u[illegible] of the Committee are complete.

—*Indian Infor[illegible]*

Dr. Rajan Answers Criticisms

In the course of a broadcast ta'k Hon'ble Dr. T. S. S. Rajan, Minister for Food observed: I would like to refer to the criticisms in certain quarters that the Madras Government had blindly followed the dictates of the Government of India without any rhyme or reason. Such a criticism is based on a wrong appreciation of the position. The whole policy of food administration is not entirely a provincial concern and it is essentially an All-India matter. It is the Government of India who take account of the food stocks available in the country arrange for imports from foreign countries to make up the deficiencies and distribute them equitably to the various deficit provinces. They have been supplying this Province large quantities of foodgrains at a subsidised price and are still arranging for the supply of foodgrains for the current year also. Though they may not be able to supply all that we require, their help is expected to be fairly substantial and they propose to give the foodgrains at a concessional price, as they would themselves bear two-thirds of the subsidy. Any departure from the policy laid down by the Government of India will naturally deprive us of all these advantages, which we now enjoy besides creating an embarassing food situation in the Province, since the Provincial Government do not have the necessary status for negotiating with foreign countries in this matter. It is thus wrong to suppose that the Provincial Government is following the footsteps of the Central Government thoughtlessly and in a light-hearted manner. As a matter of fact, soon after we were informed of the Government of India's decision, the pros and cons of the question were discussed not only in a meeting of the Cabinet but also in a conference of the Collectors of selected districts, Commissioner of Civil Supplies and other important food officials and a definite plan of action was chalked out. It was decided that the policy of progressive de-control should be adopted, providing adequate safeguards at the same time to protect the interests of the consumers. The policy was also discussed subsequently in both the Houses of Legislature and it was a matter of great encouragement to me that there was a large volume of support in favour of de-control.

I may also mention that the statements by Mahatma Gandhi, whose insight and wisdom are unrivalled had created a feeling among the masses in favour of de-control and I was flooded with letters and telegrams every day from all over the Province recommending the adoption of immediate de-control, though there were a few dissenters here and there.

It is pointed out in some quarters that it would have been wiser if the controls were removed after the Province had attained a state of self-sufficiency. It should be remembered that this Province was not self sufficient in the matter of food grains even before the war and could not attain self-sufficiency within a reasonable period of four or five years. It would therefore mean indefinite waiting under intolerable conditions if controls were to be relaxed only after attaining self-sufficiency.

It is also said that the Government want to remove controls to divest themselves of the responsibility for feeding the people. This is a very erroneous presumption. De-control and de-rationing will as already announced be adopted gradually with reference to the conditions in each district. The supply of requirements of the deficit areas still continues to be the responsibility of the Government till all controls are entirely removed. The Government would keep a vigilant watch over the prices and stock position in the deficit districts and will carry on their intensive procurement in the surplus districts as hitherto. All possible safeguards and precautions will be taken to meet any untoward situation that may crop up. We do not also propose to relax our efforts in securing the maximum possible imports from outide the Province. The latest telegraphic reports from Collectors on the results of de-control show that except in the districts of Malabar, Ramnad and Tinnevelly and in some rural parts of a few other districts, no scarcity is felt. Relief shops have been opened wherever necessary and foodgrains are being moved to deficit pockets from the surplus areas. The de-control of pulses, sugar and other minor articles which was ordered a few weeks in advance of the de-conrol of rice and millets, has, I understand, produced a feeling of satisfaction among the public in general and I sincerely hope that the same results will follow in the wake of the decontrol of the foodgrains.

Before concluding, I wish to place before you some facts about the present food situation in the Province. It is my painful duty to tell you that as a result of the complete failure of the North-East Monsoon in the Central and Southern districts the yield from paddy and millets has been considerably reduced. According to the latest estimates, the production of rice this year is estimated to be 3,687,000 tons which is less than the normal by about 1·2 million tons. The millet production is estimated at 1,939,000 tons which means a reduction of about 712,000 tons from the normal. It is therefore true that our present position is not happy but there is no cause for despair, if we make a grim determination to face the situation, whatever it might be, boldly. The very essence of our de-control policy is the imbibing of a spirit of self-help and self-reliance in every individual. It is therefore surely within our limits to tide over any possible crisis provided every one of us makes it a point to do his bit to solve the problem, the producer, the trader, and the consumer endeavouring each in his own way. The producer has now been offered a substantial increase in price and he should therefore help by increasing production in every possible way whether it is rice, millets or supplementary food crops which will go a long way to alleviate distress. The consumer could help by purchasing only his minimum requirements and not resorting to the black market. The trader should serve the community by fair dealings. If every one of us pull our weight I do not despair that we could make the present partial de-control a success and pave the way for complete de-control before long.

—*By Courtesy of A.I.R., Madras.*

The Government and the Development of Language

The development of languages is one of the primary duties of a popular Government and to this end the Madras Government have taken a number of measures. The latest is the institution of Poets laureateship. In this connection the broadcast talk of the Hon'ble Minister for Education is of especial interest.

In the course of the broadcast the Hon'ble Minister said:

The lack of development of our language has resulted so far in stagnation in all walks of life. There

lived in our country many persons of great culture, refinement and ability. Many of our countrymen have outshone others in Science and other branches of study. Men like Sir J. C. Bose have attained fame by discovering things hitherto undiscovered in the world. India has given birth to innumerable great men like Sir C. V. Raman, Sir K. S. Krishnan, Sir S. Radhakrishnan, Sir P. C. Roy, Sri Ramanuja and others who made themselves famous in their particular fields. But the truths which they expounded and the wisdom which they acquired have not benefited our country. This is due to their researches being recorded in a foreign language which they studied and mastered. They did not make their researches in the languages known to the people of our country. Owing to the lack of growth of the languages of our country this has not been made possible. High culture among a select few of her people cannot benefit a country. All men can generally acquire a high standard of culture, only through books published in the language known to them. That is the sign of the true growth of language.

All the books written and published in a language can be divided into two classes (1) Literature and (2) Scientific works. Poems and stories, religious works and other books dealing with the development of mankind and society, can be called literature. The intrinsic merit of these books is presentation of high ideals to mould the mode of life. We have such literary books in abundance in our language. Before the birth of Christ, nay, even as early as the beginning of the civilization of mankind many excellent books were written in our language which are still praised by the world at large. Of this we must feel proud. No one can definitely fix the exact date of " Thirukural ". That excellent work is of such great antiquity. The books that appeared subsequent to Thirukural such as Salappadikaram, Thevarams, Prabhandhams, Kamba Ramayana, etc., are treasures of which any language can be proud.

But, we cannot boast of many scientific or Science of the second type in our language. It is said that in days of yore we had many excellent books on medicine, mathematics, Arts and other subjects. They have, for reasons not known to us, disappeared. Though there are a few of them, they have not so far been revised to suit present conditions. The researches are being made in the fields of Science, Physics and Chemistry are of tremendous importance. Our old books do not stand to gain by recent researches of the world. As these researches were made and recorded in languages other than our own, they were not incorporated in our language. So much so, we must consider that in certain matters our country and language are in the back ground.

The question that engages our attention at present is to devise ways and means to bring out in our language scientific works in the various fields. The imparting of education in our schools and colleges in English language is in a way responsible for the present situation. Instruction given through the medium of a foreign language in a school or college has created a cleavage between those who studied in schools and colleges and those who did not do so and prevented the spreading of language from those who studied in the colleges to those who did not study there. This is our experience of the past 150 years. If all this knowledge is to be made the property of all common people all lessons must be taught in our language in our schools and colleges. Our countrymen are aware of the arrangements made by this Government to this effect. Arrangements have also been made in the Intermediate classes of colleges to impart in Tamil certain branches of study. From next year in the B.A. classes in some colleges instruction of certain branches will be given in Tamil. It has thus been made possible to bring out many books on different subjects. It is our primary duty to bring out Scientific books and spread the study thereof.

We will have to consider one thing in this affair. To bring out books in Tamil on various subjects, the technical terms and words relating thereto must be collected. There are some who advocate that these technical terms and words must be in pure Tamil. They are desirous of coining words like " dwichakra " for " cycle " and such other words. Many of the technical words that we find in the English language are not of English origin. Mostly they were borrowed from Latin, French and other languages, They are the technical words in common usuage throughout the world. Our children too must be conversant with these terms and words if they desire to pursue higher course of studies. It is, therefore, good to borrow these terms wholesale in our language. This is the opinion of some learned people. This opinion was supported in the recent Tamil festival held at Madura. At the meeting held in Madras under the auspices of the Committee of Tamil Encyclopedia this view was supported by many. The Government also have formed a committee consisting of Sri Manavala Ramanujam, the Principal of the Presidency College, Sri T. P. Meenakshisundaram Pillai and Sri Viswanatha Sarma to coin technical terms in Tamil.

Our language will attain a dignified position if it is made a State language. The English language commended great respect on account of its being made a State language. That respect and dignity must henceforth be shared by our provincial languages. It is difficult to effect this for this reason. Our province consists of four linguistic regions. It is not therefore possible to make anyone of the four languages a State language. Friends know that there has been an agitation for the division of the Province on linguistic basis. The present situation does not warrant immediate separation. It may take some years. It will then be easy for each of these languages to be a State language in its respective region. This does not mean that we should keep quiet till the separation is effected. We may make attempts to carry on Government through the medium of regional languages.

The growth of a language cannot be made possible by a few in a country. This will be possible only when the public co-operate with the Government in this respect.

Education must be free from Communalism

Dr. Syed Hosain, Indian Ambassador-Designate to Egypt, speaking at the Aligarh Muslim University said that education must now be completely divorced from the past tradition and harnessed to the ideals and purposes of a free sovereign democratic nation. This meant, among other things, eradication of every type of sectarianism, communalism and fanaticism.

Mr. Hosain stated that the Aligarh University was a vital and valuable national institution. For a whole generation and more the Aligarh College had enjoyed the great reputation as a character building educational institution. He was glad that with the advent of India's independence a splendid and wholesome change had also come over the spirit of Aligarh University.

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Provinces and States—Glimpses

Adult Education Conference

Addressing the All India Adult Education Conference recently in Rewa State, Mr. K. G. Saiyidain, discussed the problem of education in a democratic state. Adult education should not be limited to being a mere literacy drive but should provide facilities for the common man to develop the faculties of clear thinking and self expression, he said. The primary concern of the educationists of democracy should be to strengthen its intellectual and moral defences against two serious dangers—the uncritical and credulous acceptance of propaganda as truth and the break down of the sense of the social solidarity which results in selfish clash of interest and the generation of a suicidal conflict between the different communal, sectarian and geographical groups.

Continuing, he said, "In planning our adult education, we must pay special attention to two large and new groups —refugees who have gone through frightful sufferings and have become soured and embittered in consequence and ex-soldiers who have lost respect for life and its more tender values. Any programme, which ignores these large elements of the population and fails to provide specially for their re-education and the healing of their psychological wounds, will remain defective and incomplete.

"The most urgent task of adult education today therefore, is to concentrate on their social and moral re-education, to rekindle reverence for life which all great religions have taught and to reassert the primacy of those moral and spiritual values which ultimately give meaning to life.

"What is important for us to remember is that this raising of the material and cultural level, this admittance into the domain of the 'good life' is not possible through the drab, dreary and often literally dark 'adult centres.'

"No, if the adult education movement is to play its part in the renaissance of national life, these centres must become dynamic social centres, harnessing the actual and potential cultural resources of the local community, making the members actively interested in their own improvement and providing an environment and an atmosphere in which that interest can be joyfully translated into co-operative and growing activity.

"This would provide an excellent starting point for the formation of 'discussion groups' and arranging what may eventually become 'courses' of talks and lectures on subjects of general interest and usefulness to the members. By quickening their interest in folk art and music and other forms of creative self-expression, not only will their lives be enriched and their appreciation deepened but it may even be possible to save them from falling helpless victims to the purveyors of inferior, commercialized art and music.

"To broaden their mental horizon, the various visual and auditory aids which science has placed at our disposal—pictures, charts, diagrams, films, radio, etc.—may be utilized. Thus, if adult education is broadened to mean social education, the education of the whole personality in all its manifold ramifications—as is the accepted connotation in all progressive countries—it can make a vital contribution to the salvation of the country and its bewildered people."

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Development of Indian Agriculture

"Let India in the years to come keep one foot on the land and one in industry—nationally and individually." observed Mr. Glen Overton, President of the American Machine Company, Dowagiac, Michigan, speaking at the Rotary International Weekly Luncheon meeting held in Madras recently.

In the course of his talk: Mr. Overton said: "Agriculture is the keystone of your national economic structure. The honour and dignity of increasing the productive value of the land, must be establised and maintained in the minds of your people. Food is after all your first requirement—more food, better food.

"Second, avoid in every possible way large centres of industrial employment. Our failure to do this during the past forty years is now our greatest social and political problem. If most places of employment could be held to units of 1,000 men or less, the workmen would be a more stable and happier people. Let India in the years to come keep one foot on the land and one in industry—nationally and individually."

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Police in U.P.

Addressing the annual parade of the U.P. police at the police lines recently, Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, the Governnor, declared that the Government and the people would act as one man in the defence of the country against all those who might try to attack, assail and exploit the land.

Paying tributes to the services rendered by the police since the country attained freedom, Mrs. Naidu hoped that in the future they would all—officers and men—realize that they should always work as protectors and guardians of the people. She told the officers that they and their men should stand together, undivided in spirit and endeavour, in the service of the country.

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The task before Free India

"By achieving freedom, our responsibilities have increased. So long as we were in bondage we could put the blame on others, but now if we do not realize our responsibilities, the fault will be ours," said Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant, Premier of U.P., while addressing the Mirzapur District Political Conference recently.

About 30,000 persons from the neighbouring villages listened to the speech with rapt attention.

The Premier reminded the audience that they had to liquidate the accumulated arrears not of decades but of centuries. They had to liquidate illiteracy, poverty and disease.

"We should raise those who are down-trodden, make rich those who are poor, educate those who are illiterate and give a feeling of security to all. We have to find ways to infuse energy, vigour and joy in the life of our people. We have to raise the stature of every citizen residing in this province and for that we all have to combine our efforts", he said.

Further explaining the meaning of Swaraj, Pandit Pant said that it meant a panchayat raj in which everyone had a voice in shaping h...

destiny. With that end in view the Congress Ministry had enacted the Panchayat Raj Act under which over a lakh of panchayats would be formed in the province.

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Bihar Governor's Advice

"We are all servants of the nation, its sewaks. Let the flame of patriotism which burns within you so brightly, inspire you to function as true sewaks and to merge your identity with the poorest of your land, feeling as acutely as he does how the thorn pricks the naked feet, how the wintry blast freezes the half-covered limbs, how the depleted purse creates the pangs of hunger and how the devitalized body falls prey to malaria and other diseases, in a word how the masses of this land of ours live at a level which is one of the lowest in the world", observed His Excellency the Governor of Bihar inaugurating the Bihar Centre of the Institute of Engineers. Incidentally it may be mentioned, there are a number of schemes primarily designed to achieve the economic re-birth of the Province. All told, these schemes are calculated to cost Rs. 200 crores.

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Land Settlement in Assam

Sri Bishnuram Medhi, Revenue and Finance Minister, Assam, outlined at a Press Conference at the Jorhat Circuit House on Monday last, Assam Government's plan regarding land settlement and development of industries in the province.

He said that in enforcing a policy of abolition of zamindari which affected Goalpara district and Karimganj subdivision, the Government proposed, first, to give adequate relief to tenants by reducing the exorbitant rate of rents and granting them the right of occupancy, thus freeing them from exploitation by landowners and middlemen.

Sri Medhi said that zamindars would be given big plots of Khamar lands, provided they agreed to cultivate them for developing special industries and farming as ordinary tenants. He further said that a special officer had been engaged for this purpose; nevertheless it would take some time to complete the work.

He also said that the question of free simple grants and other temporarily settled lands was also being considered by the Government. When his attention was drawn to Press reports about immigrants still creating troubles in the grazing reserves, he said that evictions of trespassers from the reserves were complete and directions had been issued to the Deputy Commissioners to evict trespassers even from the waste lands.

The Minister said that it was not a fact that the Assam Government had forfeited any amount for failure to supply industrial schemes to the Central Government. He said that the Industrial Adviser appointed by the Assam Government was not directly concerned with the actual preparation of schemes but with advising the Government.

Sri Medhi further disclosed that the services of a number of geologists from the Central Government had been requisitioned for extensive survey work in Assam in connection with post-war development schemes. The survey of uneconomic holdings had already begun in Sibsagar district and would be continued in other districts as well.

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Grow More Food Drive

The Government of Assam has formed an Advisory Council for increased food production.

The functions of the Advisory Council are:—

(1) Improvement in the machinery of the Agricultural department. (2) Suggestion as how to co-ordinate the activities of the non-official committees that will be set up. (3) Suggestion for improvement on the present statistical machinery, regarding agricultural Production. (4) Suggestion with regard to organization for machanized Agriculture. (5) Fixation of target for production. (6) Review of the work that is being done.

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Task before Veterinarians

Veterinarians had a two-fold duty to perform, namely, to produce improved and healthy breeds of cattle for better cultivation and production and to produce milch cattle for increasing the production of milk, stated Mr. Badrinath Verma, Minister of Education and Information, inaugurating the tenth annual meeting of the Bihar Provincial Veterinary Conference this afternoon.

The veterinarians, Mr. Verma added, had a noble and humanitarian task before them. India being an agricultural country, where about 70 per cent of the population depended on agriculture, their task was all the more responsible because it was only on its cattle wealth that a country's agriculture could flourish.

Secondary Education in Bombay

The Government of Bombay have sanctioned as a post-war reconstruction measure, a five-year scheme for improvement of secondary education in the province. The scheme provides additional amounts for each of the five years from 1947–48 to supplement the existing allotment of a little over Rs. 21 lakhs in the ordinary budget on account of the grant of the non-Government secondary schools. The additional cost on account of the scheme during each of the years will be as follows: Rs. 10 lakhs during 1947–48, with annual increase of Rs. 2 lakhs, reaching Rs. 18 lakhs during the fifth year 1951–52.

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More details about U.P. Dairy Plan

The Dairy Development Adviser to the Government of India has drawn a dairy plan for U.P. It will cost Rs. 14·83 crores, out of which the U.P. Government will meet only Rs. 9·41 crores and the Central Government will meet the rest, and would increase the output of milk by nearly 10 per cent. At present the U.P. produces only 1,126 lakhs maunds of milk per annum which gives a per capita consumption of 7·35 ounces per head per day as against 1 lb. which is considered the nutritional minimum. The production of milk under this scheme will increase by 108·02 lakh maunds per annum. If this scheme is accepted by the U.P. Government, it will be necessary to establish 22 milk-*cum*-bull production farms, 500 small-holder milk production farms, 25 colonies for the cattle dislodged from cities, 20 seed bull centres and 100 insemination yards for the purpose of artificial insemination. Under this scheme 27 co-operative milk unions and 186 co-operative rural co-operative rural cremaries will be set up and 8 lakhs acres of land will have to be reserved for the production of green fodder and silage. This is a comprehensive scheme and will go a long way in overcoming the shortage of milk in the cities and towns of U.P.

It is understood that in order to execute the various schemes, the Bihar Government have decided to engage German experts. Necessary steps to secure their services have been tak[en]. Very soon a fairly good number of the[m] would be reaching Bihar to help th[e] execution of development schemes. During his recent visit to Germany Mr. A. N. Sinha, the Finance Minist[er]

of Bihar, contacted the German chemists and had preliminary negotiations with them.

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Need for long-term Agricultural Plan

Mere abolition of the Zamindary system would not solve the agricultural economic problems of the country, but there should be long-term planning for progressively increased production for each unit of land, observed Sir Manilal Nanavati, President of the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics, inaugurating the C.P. and Berar branch of the Society.

The main objective of the Society, Sir Manilal explained, was to collect and study facts as they obtained at present, work out solutions for the various problems and place their findings and suggestions before Government with a view to improving the economic position of the agriculturist, increase production and thereby raise the whole country's economic status.

Sir Manilal dwelt on the importance of the Village Panchayat system. The speaker referred to an experiment conducted in a Baroda village where a survey was made on the living conditions, customs, economic and general health position of 860 out of a thousand inhabitants. The Society had compiled books on its findings and statistics on the various aspects of the problem. The C.P. branch, he said, could do much useful work by going into the Province's agricultural economic problem. He suggested the inclusion in its membership of cultivators who would be in a better position to realize and bring to the fore agricultural problems and seek practical ways of solving them.

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Rural Sociology for India

"Do not confine yourself to a study of technical agriculture but help to build up rural sociology on a firm footing that will bring happiness to your country, said Sir Manilal Navavati, addressing the students of the Agricultural College recently. 'Agriculture must be turned into our business and should not merely be a way of life,' he added. It must be the primary concern of the Department of Agriculture to get the highest yield out of land and that in short was the crux of the whole problem."

Referring to the indebtedness of the peasantry in India, he said there could [illegible] unless they turned their agricultural deficit economy into a surplus one. He, therefore, stressed that Agricultural Colleges, Provincial Governments and the Central Government all must combine in investigating how agriculture could be turned into a paying proposition.

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Building of Luxury Houses

A virtual ban on the construction of houses costing more than Rs. 50,000 is proposed by the U.P. Government.

According to a scheme for the equitable distribution of building material, quotas of cement, iron and steel for building purposes will not be allotted for the construction of 'luxury houses' costing Rs. 50,000.

In the present acute shortage of building materials, when the Government have even failed to procure necessary supplies for their building programme it is felt desirable to exercise a strict control over the distribution of building material to prevent its disappearance from the open market and to divert its flow for the construction of houses for residential purposes instead of luxury houses.

According to the scheme, a quantity will be set apart for the construction of residential houses after deducting the material required for industrial and other Governmental needs. Quotas will be allotted to each district after determining the number of house-units proposed to be built in the Province. Quotas of building material will later be allotted to house builders by drawing lots by District Magistrates.

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Citizens' Army

A 1,200,000 strong citizens' army is in the making in the U.P. Its supreme task will be to defend the State from internal as well as external dangers.

The first phase in the creation of this huge volunteer force from among the people has begun. The U.P. Government has started selecting 2,000 men to whom it will first impart training in arms at its own expense. These trained and equipped men will then form the nucleus around which the Prantiya Raksha Dal will be built up throughout the Province, in town and country.

There is great enthusiasm among U.P.'s youth for enlistment in the P.R.D., which provides opportunities for meeting their urge for a soldier's life. So wide is the interest growing in the Dal that the U.P. Government has been receiving numerous inquiries from various Provincial Governments and States as to the details of its organization.

Premier Pant's declaration at Benaras that the United Provinces alone will be able to meet the challenge from any invader only reflected his and his colleagues' confidence in the utility of this volunteer force as a powerful defence organization. "We ought to realize that we are a strong nation and anybody daring to come into conflict with us will be breaking his head against a wall," the Premier stated.

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Women Police

The U.P. will before long have women police squads to grapple with criminals and culprits among the female sex. The Government's Police Reorganization Committee members hope that women police may succeed where men police have failed or felt embarrassed in dealing with crimes among women.

It is also intended to use women police at places of pilgrimage, at big railway junctions and in large towns. Quite often aborted infants are found lying where pilgrims collect at fairs, and women will, perhaps, prove more competent to hunt out the offenders. The women police will also assist in the job of restoring kidnapped women and girls and of stopping traffic in them on such occasions.

Regulations will be made, providing for work by police women in threes instead of singly, for it is still not considered safe for a woman, even a police woman, to go out alone. So two policewomen will escort one constable of their sex on duty.

Recruitment of the first batches of policewomen will be in the nature of an experiment which, if it succeeds, will be followed by increased recruitment of women in the police force.

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Municipal Board Reforms in U.P.

The Government have decided to push through the next budget session of the Legislature an omnibus Bill seeking to revolutionize the entire machinery of the municipal boards in the Province. The Bill, among several other reforms in the functions of these local self-governing institutions, will achieve these objects.

All adults above the age of 21 will be municipal voters. All members of the boards will be elected and chairmen will also be elected instead of being nominated by the Government. Municipal boards can directly raise loans in the open market with prior sanction of the Government. At Government discretion boards will do away with the present control on them of divisional commissioners. Boards will have to take Government sanction in giving out permits for cinema house sites. The idea is to meet much public criticism on this score. Efforts will be made by the Government through the exercise of this power over the boards to see that cinema houses do not crop up just in the vicinity of public institutions like colleges, hospitals and temples and in thickly populated areas where cinema owners tend to build them.

Besides, boards under the new legislation will have powers to provide for the physical training of their citizens and for the expansion of trade and industry within their jurisdiction.

* * *

Fruit Industry in the East Punjab

Garden Colony Scheme.—Out of the area of land vacated by the Muslims, a total area of 600 to 1,500 acres of land in each district in the East Punjab will be selected for the Garden Colony Scheme. In case sufficient area of land may not be available in any district, the area proposed may be deceased. Total area is expected to be 10,000 acres.

Normally 20 acres will be allotted to each settler. The area of land to each or any settler can be increased by the committee appointed for the purpose, depending upon the number of applicants and the area of land available. In special cases, where a settler does not own more than 10 acres, his allotment in the garden colony can be reduced to even 10 acres. At least three-fourths of the area so allotted to every allottee, will be devoted to fruit garden, which will be laid out according to the plan of the Agricultural Department.

Every settler who is allotted land in the garden colony, whether a refugee or a local person, will have to surrender to Government an equivalent area of land of the same quality from his property. If he is a local man, he will give up an area equivalent to the area given in the garden colony out of his personal property. In the case of a refugee, the area of land given in the garden colony would be deducted out of the land to [illegible] will be entitled.

In order to achieve for the province maximum results from this industry, Government will afford such financial or other assistance as they consider necessary in matters like water supply, production of nursery plants of most reliable varieties, control of insect pests and diseases, co-operative packing and marketing of fruit, cold storage plants, fruit preservation factories, etc.

* * *

Students and Social Service

A form has been devised for registration of students for social service in East Punjab. Every educational institution of the status of a high school or an affiliated college can register students for social service. The selection of volunteers for service in the various camps will be made by the camp commandants, in consultation with the Heads of local educational institutions. Likewise volunteers for Registration work will be drafted by the Registration Officers.

A Liaison organisation has been set up between the East Punjab Education Department and the Refugees and Rehabilitation Secretariat.

Departments' Forum

Revenue

Resettlement Activities

Salem district

1. *Manivilandan Ex-servicemen's Co-operative Agricultural Colonisation Society.*—The 24-admitted members of the colony have cultivated wet crops, i.e., paddy on an extent of 6·82 acres and dry crops such as cumbu, varagu and cholam, etc., on an extent of 83·30 acres in the colony. More and more applicants are forthcoming to take up cultivation in the colony. The non-members have raised dry crops on an extent of 53·00 acres in the colony. Weaving mat, and coir making form the main subsidiary cottage industry of the colonists. Sanction of the Government is awaited for 5 more irrigation wells, 12 more huts, 12-pairs of bulls and a cart for the colony. It is hoped that this colony will thrive well in due course.

2. *Salem Co-operative Motor Transport Society for Ex-Servicemen, Limited.*—The construction of the M.B. Shed has been completed. The arrival of the lorries is expected within a fortnight.

General.—A canteen for the benefit of the Ex-servicemen, has been opened by the Collector on 14th January 1948 in the District Employment Office, Salem.

Guntur district

1. There are three land Colonisation Schemes for Ex-servicemen in this district. The Colonisation Scheme for the Ex-servicemen of Piduguralla village of Palnad taluk was sanctioned by the Government as a dry cultivation scheme. There are about 55 Ex-servicemen in the village and a Society is being formed for them after collection of share capital and entrance fees. Forty-eight Ex-servicemen have so far filed their applications and deposited the share capital of Rs. 50 and entrance fees of Re. 0–4–0. The total extent of the area reserved for the Ex-servicemen [illegible] acres 499·89 cents and each member will be granted an extent of about 10·00 acres.

2. The other two Colonisation Schemes (i.e.) Allur of Bapatla [illegible]

Education

The Government have sanctioned as a special case the grant of Rs. 25 for each of the years 1947–48 and 1948–49 in support of the lecturership endowed in the Lucknow University in Indian History and Civilisation.

Sixty-nine palm leaf manuscripts, 30 paper manuscripts and 28 printed books from the Government Oriental Manuscripts Library, Madras, and 64 printed books, from the Office of the Registrar of Books, Madras, were selected and sent to the Tamil Cultural Exhibition which was held at Madura during January 1948.

Government have sanctioned for the development of the four South Indian languages and sanskrit, the creation of laureaterships in Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada and Sanskrit.

In order to encourage the publication of literature in popular form in the regional language of the Province, the Government have decided to institute prizes for the best books on various subjects.

and Nizampatam of Repalle taluk are awaiting sanction.

3. A Motor Transport Co-operative Society was sanctioned and the Society was registered on 14th August 1947. The construction of the motor bus shed was completed; selection of driver and cleaner members was made and the selection of a Manager and his staff was also made. Fifteen vehicles are expected before the end of this month and the Society is expected to start its work from 1st February 1948.

Madura district

During the quarter, the Madura District Motor Transport Co-operative Society for ex-servicemen was started. The opening day celebration took place on 20th November 1947. Sixteen lorries were put on the road. At present the Society is giving employment to one Manager, one Accountant, three clerks, eighteen drivers, two fitters, nineteen cleaners and three watchmen. The Society has made a good beginning and is likely to be successful.

South Kanara district

During the quarter ended 31st December 1947, 261 demobilized personnel have registered their names for civil employment in this district. Eighty-one have re-registered their names after their registration had once lapsed or their previous appointments ceased. Out of these, 242 were placed in employment, 21 persons found work, 19 persons left the district seeking employment elsewhere, one each was selected for technical and teachers' training. Nine persons did not require any employment assistance and the registration of 806 persons lapsed, i.e., these persons are not available as their present whereabouts are not known and as they have not contacted this office for more than three months.

Police

Administration Report

The administration report of the Police Department during 1946 shows that despite acute economic strain and widespread labour unrest law and order were well maintained. There was an increase in the number of cases of rioting and unlawful assembly, though most of these cases were minor in nature. The Police had to open fire on 33 occasions, as against 5 occasions in the previous year. There was a wave of labour unrest in most of the districts, resulting in strikes, of which there were 278, as against 77 in 1945. The most important of the strikes was the South Indian Railway Employees' strike at Golden Rock, Trichinopoly.

The year 1946 was marked by an increase in the volume of crime as compared with 1944 and 1945. This was due to unfavourable seasonal conditions, prevalence of communal and labour troubles and large scale unemployment, due to demobilization. The total number of cognizable cases, excluding offences under the Special and Local laws and the 'nuisance' sections of the Indian Penal Code, increased from 55,138 in 1945 to 63,781 in 1946. 'Grave Crimes' increased from 39,600 to 44,904, there being an increase under all heads. Dacoities increased from 77 to 103, robberies from 481 to 483, house-breakings from 7,327 to 8,990, cattle thefts from 4,954 and ordinary thefts from 26,132 to 29,200. There were 1,165 cases of murder, as compared with 1,092 in 1945. There was also a marked increase in the total number of cases under the Special and Local laws, from 95,750 in 1945 to 153,090 in 1946, the increase being 59·5 per cent. The number under 'nuisance' offences showed a slight decrease from 238,205 in 1945 to 227,124 in 1946.

There was a further increase in the recorded number of cases of Kallar crimes in both the Madura North and Madura South districts, from 3,212 in 1945 to 3,777 in 1946. In spite of certain difficulties, the control of Kallar and other criminal tribes was on the whole well maintained.

The Crime Branch of the C.I.D. successfully investigated a number of important cases in co-operation with the District Intelligence Bureaux. The cases handled included smuggling, misappropriation of Government money, fraud, cheating and murder by poisoning. The precautions taken during periods of potential communal trouble and at festivals were generally successful in averting serious incidents. There were minor communal clashes in Guntur, Nellore, Kurnool, Anantapur, Chittoor, North Arcot, Madura South, Ramnad and Salem districts. Kisan strikes under Communist leadership were fairly common in Tanjore district and orders under section 144, Criminal Procedure Code, had to be promulgated at the close of the year to maintain peace and order in the areas affected.

Two thousand two hundred and ninety-nine traffic accidents were recorded in Madras City, as compared with 2,286 in 1945. Forty-five cases were fatal as against 65 in 1945. Military vehicles were involved in 634 cases, of which 19 were fatal as against 1,105 in 1945, of which 39 were fatal. Pedestrians were the victims in the majority of cases. There was considerable congestion in trams and buses during the peak hours, though the number of buses was gradually increased.

The Armed Reserves, the Presidency General Reserve and the Special Emergency Force were amalgamated and re-organized with effect from the 1st May 1946. In several districts, the re-organized Armed Reserves include a certain number of platoons for railway protection. The strain of duties imposed on them continued to be severe.

Some amount of indisicipline was noticed among the Malabar Special Police force during the year, which came to a head in April. The weeding out of undesirables resulted in the dismissal of a large number of personnel in the force, which has now fully recovered its old morale.

A separate branch called the "X" Branch was formed in the C.I.D. to combat black-marketing and corruption.

The abnormal economic and security conditions and other repercussions of the war continued to tax the strength of the force to the full. Judged against this background, law and order were well maintained and detection of crime continued to remain at almost the same high level as in 1945. The police force has, on the whole, given a satisfactory account of itself during 1946.

The Government have decided that out of the war-reserved vacancies in all services (Provincial and Subordinate), for which war service candidates have not been selected so far, a maximum of 10 per cent should be allotted to Indian National Army men, who have already applied for such vacancies. In the case of posts in the Special Police units, however, not more than 5 per cent should be allotted to them.

Labour

Labour Situation in the Province

The Government of Madras have accepted the award of the Industrial Tribunal (Hon'ble Mr. Justice K. P. Lakshmana Rao, *Kt.*,) in the dispute between the workers and the management of the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills Company, Limited, Madras.

The Madras Motor Drivers' Association has issued a notice of strike, dated 29th November 1947, to the management of the Associated Bus Transport, Limited, Madras, demanding increased dearness allowance, reinstatement of some of the discharged workers, supply of uniforms, payment of bonus, etc. The Commissioner of Labour is looking into the matter.

The General and Industrial Workers' Union, Madras, representing the Label and Tobacco sections of the Beedi Factories has issued a notice of strike, dated 4th December 1947, to the managements of the Taj Mahal Beedi Company, Kareem Beedi Company and the Bavatta Beedi Company intimating that the workers of the three companies will go on strike if their demands for increased dearness allowance, annual increment, etc., are not conceded. The Labour Officer, Madras, is looking into the matter.

The President of the Beehive Foundry Workers' Union has issued a notice of strike, dated 5th December 1947, to the management of the Foundry intimating that the workers will go on strike after 15 days from the date of issue of the strike notice if their demands for introduction of a provident fund scheme is not conceded. The Labour Officer, Madras, is trying to bring about an amicable settlement of the dispute.

The Coimbatore District Motor Workers' Union has issued notices of strike to the Proprietors of the following Motor Services intimating that the workers will go on strike from 25th December 1947 if their demands for interim relief, fixation of batta, dearness allowance, leave facilities, etc., are not conceded :—

(1) C. C. Brothers, Coimbatore, (2) Stanes Transport, Coimbatore, (3) M.C.S. Ltd., Coimbatore, (4) B. Meenakshisundaram & Co., Lorry Transport, Coimbatore, (5) A. B. T. Ltd., Pollachi, (6) S.S.V. Motor Service, Salur and V.C.K. Motor Service, Coimbatore.

The Labour Officer, Coimbatore, has been asked to bring about an amicable settlement of the dispute, and to advise the Union to withdraw the strike notice. The Union has been advised to await the result of the adjudication and not to precipitate matters.

The Labour Officer, Coimbatore, reports that he has met the proprietors of the Motor Transport Services, Satyamangalam (B.M.S.) and the representative of the Union and brought about a settlement of the dispute.

The Government have referred the dispute between the hotel workers and the management of hotels in Madura to the Industrial Tribunal, Madura at Tinnevelly, for adjudication. They have also prohibited the continuance of the strike and lockout in existence at the time.

The Government have also referred the question of the non-implementation of the award of the Industrial Tribunal (Textile Mills) and the illegal lockout on 16th November 1947 during the period in which the award was in operation in defiance of the provisions of section 23 (c) of the Industrial Disputes Act, by the management of the Rajah Mills, Madura to the Industrial Tribunal, Madura at Tinnevelly, for adjudication.

The Government have also prohibited the continuance of the existing lockout and strike.

It is reported that the Tannery workers in all the Tanneries in Dindigul have been staging a stay-in-strike from 11th December 1947. The Labour Officer, Madura, has been asked to advice the workers to call off the stay-in-strike immediately and to resume work, pending orders of Government on the recommendations of the Commissioner of Labour on the tripartite conference held recently at Madras.

The Government of Madras have referred the dispute between the workers and managements of the Themmalapuram Bus Transport, Limited, Palghat, to the Industrial Tribunal, Coimbatore, for adjudication. They have also prohibited the continuance of the strike and lockout in existence at the time of adjudication.

The General Secretary of the Mettupalayam Nilgiris Motor Workers' Union, Coonoor, has given a notice of strike, dated 2nd December 1947, to all the Bus Owners and the Lorry and Pleasure Car Owners in Mettupalayam and the Nilgiris intimating that the Motor workers will go on strike if their demands for reinstatement of discharged workers, payment of bonus as per award and payment of interim relief to one conductor are not conceded. The report of the Labour Officer, Coimbatore, is awaited.

The General Secretary, Chettinad Motor Workers' Union, Karaikudi, has issued a notice of strike, dated 11th December 1947, to the Proprietor, Lakshmi Motor Works, Karaikudi, intimating that the workers will go on strike if their demands for reinstatement of discharged workers, payment of interim relief and bonus, starting of provident fund, supply of three sets of uniforms per year are not conceded before then. The Labour Officer, Madura, has been asked to bring about an amicable settlement of the dispute.

The President of the Attur Motor Workers' Union, Attur, has issued a notice of strike, dated 1st December 1947, to the Properitor, Sridhar Motor Services, Attur, intimating that the workers would strike work if their demands for interim relief, bonus, recognition of the Union, etc., were not conceded. The Inspector of Factories, Salem, brought about a settlement of the dispute and the strike notice was withdrawn.

The workers of the Papanasam Project, Papanasam, Tinnevelly district, who struck work on 19th November 1947 resumed work on 4th December 1947 on the intervention of the Chief Engineer for Electricity, Madras.

As a settlement could not be effected by conciliation in the dispute between the workers and the management of Sri Rama Sugar Mills, Limited, Bobbili and Seethanagaram, the Commissioner of Labour, Madras, has recommended to Government that the dispute may be referred to the Industrial Tribunal, Bezwada, for adjudication.

[1st fortnight of December 1947.]

During the fortnight not less then eight disputes were referred Industrial Tribunals.

The General Secretary of the Coimbatore Motor Workers' Union, Coimbatore, ...

9th December 1947, to the general manager of the Anamalais Bus Transport, Limited, Pollachi, demanding interim relief, dearness allowance, batta, leave facilities, etc. On the intervention of the Labour Officer, Coimbatore, the Union withdrew the strike notice issued to M.C.S., Limited, the C.C. Brothers, the S.S.B. Stanes Motor Transport and the A.B.T., Limited.

The Kamala Mills, Coimbatore, which was closed on 16th October 1947 was reopened on 11th December 1947.

The workers of Sri Venkateswara Motor Service Company, Gudivada, who struck work on 15th November 1947 resumed work on 7th December 1947 consequent on a settlement between the Proprietor and the President of the Ellore Division Motor Employees' Union.

The Government have commended the recommendations of the Court of Inquiry for timber and saw mills in the Malabar and South Kanara districts to the managements of the Timber and saw mills in Malabar and South Kanara districts for adoption in their factories.

The Labour Officer, Calicut, reports that the Malabar Spinning and Weaving Mills, Limited, Kallai, which had been closed on 11th November 1947 was reopened on 16th December 1947.

The hotel workers of Karaikudi, Ramnad district, struck work on 29th December 1947. The Labour Officer, Madura, has been asked to advise the workers to call off the strike and to await the result of the adjudication in the dispute between the workers and the managements of the Madura hotels.

The Labour Officer, Trichinopoly, has brought about a settlement of the dispute between the press workers and the press owners, Trichinopoly, as a result of which the strike notice was withdrawn.

The Secretary of the Trichinopoly Tanners' Association reports that the Tannery workers of Trichinopoly district have gone on strike from 31st December 1947. The Labour Officer, Trichinopoly, has been asked to advise ...e Association to call off the strike ...l to await the result of the tripartite ...nferenc held at Madras.

The Hindusthan Construction Com...pany Vizagapatam, was reopened on ...mber 1947.

...1947.]

Tit-Bits

Teachers' Role in India

Inaugurating the All-India Adult Educational Conference at Rewa, Mr. K. G. Saiyidain, Educational Adviser to the Government of Bombay, said that the primary concern of the educationists of democracy should be to strengthen its intellectual and moral defences against two serious dangers, namely, the uncritical and credulous acceptance of propaganda as truth and the breakdown of the sense of social solidarity which resulted in selfish clash of interests and the generation of a suicidal conflict between different communal, sectarian and geographical groups. There was no reason, he added, why education, broadly conceived and generously planned, should not be able to train people to think for themselves, to shift truth from falsehood, to withstand the pressure of propaganda and to realize that the integrity of human relationships was too sacred and too important to be broken at the behest of any mischief-monger.

The most urgent task of adult education to-day was not teaching people to read and write or to add to their knowledge, but to concentrate on their social and moral re-education, to rekindle reverence for life and to reassert the primary of those moral and spiritual values which ultimately gave meaning to life. If the adult education movement was to play its part in the renaissance of their national life, the adult education centres should become dynamic social centres, focussing the actual and potential cultural resources of the local community, making the members actively interested in their own improvement and providing an atmosphere where that interest could be translated into co-operative and growing activity.

* * *

Sugar and Nutrition

Speaking at a public meeting on the conclusion of the annual meeting of the Indian Academy of Sciences, Sir C. V. Raman, its President, strongly urged the elimination of chillies in the dietetics of Indians. He said that there were only four tastes, namely, sugar and its antithesis, bitterness and salt and sour. These four tastes could be tested on the four different parts of the tongue.

Sir Chandrasekhar said that sugar played an important part in nutrition and bitterness was an essential factor in the plant world. Agriculture was essentially a symbiosis of plant and animal life. And in this there was no place for chillies. Sugar was sweet, not because it was sugar, but because they liked it. Similar was the case with the other things. It was the gustatory sense which made sugar taste sweet and not the sugar itself having any intrinsic property which would cause a sensation of sweetness.

" One of the objects of my lecture," he said, " is to induce that sense of dietetic reform. I think the sooner we make eating of chillies a moral crime, the better. Chillies have no place in the four tastes for which the tongue is provided. Chillies simply lash our tongues as if with a whip, to make man eat more, with the result of over-eating, thereby destroying the finer sensibilities of life. I regard it as lack of civilization to eat chillies. They are essentially a process of torturing. It is a sadistic pleasure, only the sadismis tried on yourself and not on somebody else."

The gustatory sense had obvious practical nutritional importance, he said. It was easy to understand the gustatory sense; but, why was it that we had developed a powerful sense of odour? For the explanation they must go back to the days when they were carnivorous. The animals lived upon their sense of odour, which was powerfully developed in them. Odour had a greater impression on man than taste. It still remained to be seen why a thing smelt at all. To this day there had not been a single acceptable explanation of the fundamental fact that they could smell things. It was a vast field for scientific inquiry.

* * *

Building a New India

Only by remaining true to our ideals shall we be able to build the edifice of an India from which illiteracy, superstition, poverty and lack of knowledge are banished for ever. An illiterate or uneducated electorate is a source of great weakness to a democracy. The purpose of democracy will remain unfulfilled unless it is able by a wide diffusion of education and social planning to produce and distribute enough to make life a ...ous adventure. Thus obser... Hon'b... Mr. Justice P... over the ...

Conference, which opened here to-day before a distinguished gathering of educationists and others.

Mr. Justice Sapru suggested that this work of adult education should not be left in the hands of the political or sectional organisations. It was the responsibility of educationists. He pointed out that in order that their plans of adult education might be furthered, it was desirable for them to work for the establishment of an All-India institute of adult education to which provincial institutes, simultaneously established, should be affiliated.

* * *

Failure of Season—Relief Measures

On receipt of information that widespread failure of crops has occurred in certain areas of the Province, particularly in the Southern and Central Districts (and probably also in the West Coast), the Government of Madras have, in order to afford immediate relief to the agriculturists, directed that the January kist due on wet as well as on dry lands should be postponed in areas where the crop has been badly affected. They have authorised the Collectors of all districts to decide the villages or larger areas in respect of which they consider, that such postponement is necessary and to notify such villages and areas for the information of the public.

The failure of the monsoon will no doubt affect the agricultural operations and may cause unemployment among agricultural labourers. Apart from any measures which the Collectors may feel necessary with reference to the provisions of the Famine Code, such as the opening of test works, etc., the Government have instructed all Collectors to undertake small works of benefit to agriculturists such as the construction and repairs of spring ponds, spring channels, minor irrigation tanks, etc., and also to accelerate the execution of works already undertaken, and to apply for early sanction of works beyond their powers of sanction.

The time allowed for completion of repair works to old wells subsidised under the Accelerated Schemes or the Ceded Districts Modified Scheme, which under the existing rules expired on 30th June 1947, has been ordered by Government to be extended till 30th April 1948, the concession being restricted to cases where the parties in the opinion of the Collectors concerned, have made substantial progress in carrying out the repairs.

Special Articles

Women's Welfare Work

By Mrs. Parijatham Naidu, M.A., L.T.

[Madras has scored a place over other provinces in being the first to organize a separate department for Women's Welfare.]

Of late we hear frequently these words —Social Welfare, Social Service. This is a happy sign for it indicates how thinking men and women are taking keen interest in matters relating to social welfare. Indeed there is a growing awakening to the varied social problems requiring careful but immediate tackling and it is realised that more than any other problems those relating to social well being must receive urgent and serious consideration.

India is no exception to this general awakening, perhaps it is an exception in the sense that her leaders realise more intensely than others that, barring international matters, social welfare must stand first in the priority list. They know none better that they cannot steer the political state without bringing about social reconstruction on a well-planned basis. Free India is born. She must live and live in all her glory and full stature. This cannot be satisfactorily achieved unless the leaders have the mass with them—mass who realise their responsibilities and cheerfully come forward to bear their [share] of the burdens. And how can this be done unless illiteracy is liquidated, superstition expelled, age-long social customs and prejudices that have no place at the present moment are got rid of, and better standard of living introduced? As the well-being of the subject is the first care of the state and as the state in its full discharge of its varied duties must have the close and intelligent co-operation of the people, it is now being realised more and more that in this great task of social reconstruction or social welfare, the state must come forward, with a definite and well-planned programme, on a long range basis. Once this is done and the well-being of the subject is assured, he or she becomes stateminded and civic conscious and is in a position to assume his or her share of the burdens of the state.

In fact this was the main point that was emphasised at every sectional meeting at the First All-India Conference of social work held in Bombay. There was widespread appreciation therefore when the delegates were told that already the Madras Government had a Women's Welfare department. It is true that this newly created department is intended to confine itself to Women's Welfare work but a beginning has to be made and there can be no two opinions on the urgent problems affecting women at present which need immediate solution.

Before proceeding further, we may now pause to consider the question as to what should be the programme in this Women's Welfare work? In other words, on what lines should the welfare work be planned? Obviously the work has to be defined and programme made clear and exact—otherwise the term "Welfare" is so wide that we may duplicate our efforts and these may land us no where. In its broad-sense for instance—women's welfare would include Health and Maternity and Child Care. The general women's welfare scheme cannot actually undertake this aspect of welfare work but must co-ordinate the efforts of such departments as Health, Maternity, Child Care, Nutrition and Civic Administration and make available to the ordinary woman such data and information as have a bearing to women and children and their homes. In this sense, then the Women's Welfare department or unit must be a co-ordinating and a Liaison unit with the rest.

Our programme for general welfare however must aim to educate women specially the vast majority of the low[er] middle and poor classes—for home [and] community life, to raise the standa[rd] of living and thinking, to promo[te] unity and understanding amongst the[m] by developing civic consciousne[ss]

to instil in them a spirit of the friendliness and service irrespective of any distinctions. In other words, it should aim towards the social, cultural, civic and economic welfare of the average woman. The programme must be so planned that she will be provided with organized knowledge that will assist her in these directions bearing in mind the home as the unit of all our endeavours. No welfare work can bring about the required results unless the family and the home is made the centre of our programme. And such a programme can be best carried out through a well-planned and comprehensive scheme of adult education which will provide an objective and create incentive in every adult woman to become better informed by organized adult instruction. This scheme which should aim at the civic, cultural, social and economic welfare of our women must include such useful subjects as, Home science and home remedies, Domestic economy and house-keeping, First-aid, Home Nursing, Community hygiene, Sanitation and civics, Maternity and child-care, Dietetics and nutrition, Physical activities and Social recreation, Nursery classes, Needle-work and handicraft, Adult literacy including Hindi, Leisure-time occupation and cottage industries including spinning and weaving, Training in citizenship besides discussions, debates, etc., by specialists and others.

I may perhaps make it clear if I explain the welfare programme as it is planned in the Department of Women's Welfare. We provide centres conveniently located in different areas so that distance may not be an excuse for absence. These centres again are held in girls' schools or health centres to which the women have no objection and the hours of working are between 2 to 5 in the noon when generally women have some leisure time. In the case of the slum centres, which is the most important aspect of our work, women are gathered in the school or reading room if available. The most important step is to inform the women in each locality of the free education and recreation which is being provided for them and the benefits arising from the same. This could not be done by mere dissribution of notices and the other modes of advertisement for the women had to be contacted personally. that is, daily propaganda had to be [illegible] from house to house and personal [illegible]tacts both in the home and in the [illegible]tres have to be established. For [illegible]is difficult work, full-time salaried [illegible] with special aptitude for this [illegible] and they are given training in social welfare work. The need for special training in social service is realized more and more and it is proposed to give one year's training for such workers.

The programme, it will be seen, is a varied one for each week when the centre meets and a monthly meeting is held by the members themselves once a month in each centre. This affords a good opportunity for displaying the latent talents in many of the members as well as training them to conduct these meetings themselves. It is surprising to see one of these women presiding such a meeting in a most natural manner. Of course, all this did not happen in a moment and there were many difficult and depressing times when the workers had all but lost heart but steady and ceaseless effort, have had their reward in the happy faces of the women and the spirit of oneness which prevails among them. All these varied activities cannot be managed by the paid workers and this is where the voluntary helpers come in. Gradually the women who attend the centres imbibe the spirit of voluntary service and in their turns are anxious to do their bit. This is encouraged in them and small though their contribution may be, they derive much pleasure in feeling that they too have something to give. It will therefore be seen that one of the main functions of the Women's Welfare Work should be to organize women with corporate groups under trained leadership building up a general background of a well informed outlook and a desire for imporvement through self-effort, both on the part of the individual and of the group.

The results of working such a programme as detailed above have been satisfactory on the whole and here is what an outsider unasked has to say about the work in a letter received just this week. :—

" It is with pleasure I pen these few words about the activities of the Women Welfare Centre in Vepery. My wife is one of those who attend this centre and the benefits derived from such classes induces me to write these words of appreciation of the interest evinced by the staff to bring it a success.

" The training is given in such an interesting way that it attracts all classes of people and it really gives a grounding for the womenfolk to think rightly and manage things economically and shoulder their responsibilities with ease and courage most essentially required at this time of nation building.

" The instructions given in the preparation of the essential things required in a household, preparation of foodstuffs and cottage industry make them spend their spare times more usefully.

" Much above all this is the tolerance learnt by them and the understanding of each other which creates a more happy atmosphere and makes them live with motto ' each for all and all for each.'

" I wish the movement all success."

This is the main aspect of the welfare work, the results of which will take some years to be seen and appreciated by everyone. This is also I may state for obvious reasons the most difficult part of the work.

The other aspect of the work to be undertaken by women's welfare workers is to bring relief and provide instruction to such women who require assistance, i.e., the destitute, deserted, the poor widow. These have to be cared for, and a vocation taught to help them to stand on their own legs and earn their livelihood. Their cases will have to be investigated and they must be provided for in the home and trained for a profession. On leaving the institutions, they will again be taken care of by the welfare workers by keeping in touch with them either in their homes or in the centres.

Teeth and Health

By Dr. H. M. Rao, D.D.S. (U.S.A.)

Good health is the greatest blessing to man. To maintain good health, all diseases and illness must necessarily be prevented. One of the simplest and the most effective methods of preventing diseases is by keeping the mouth clean and healthy. All food we take pass through the mouth and if the mouth is unhealthy and is the seat for various kinds of bacteria, they will enter the system causing vario[illegible] of diseases. Thus a large am[illegible]

human ailments could be prevented by keeping the teeth and gum quite clean and healthy. The condition of the teeth of a vast majority of our people is very bad and they invariably suffer from some kind of dental trouble or other. It is very unfortunate that a very few people realize the necessity of keeping their teeth in good condition. Bad teeth not only give rise to diseases of the teeth and jaws but also lead to chronic systemic diseases. Thus, it should be clearly borne in mind, that many human diseases could be prevented by simply taking care of the teeth.

Our teeth can remain in sound condition only when they are strong and well formed, arranged regularly in the jaws, and when they are kept clean at all times and properly used. If the teeth are not strong and well developed, they are susceptible to decay. The dental decay can start as soon as the teeth are erupted in the baby's mouth, causing various teeth, acute pain and sensitiveness. If the teeth are not well arranged, it is almost impossible to keep them clean and free from food debris even though they are regularly brushed. Irregular teeth present an awkward facial expression. Straight even teeth go to build up a person's health, beauty and personality. If the teeth are not kept clean, food stuffs begin to adhere to and between the teeth and the bacteria start their destructive work, causing swelling of the gums, pyorrhœa and other diseases. If the teeth are not well used, that is, if the food simply swallowed without proper grinding, teeth and gums become weak. Further, improperly chewed food will cause other bodily ailments.

To possess strong teeth, the parents have to take a very great care of their children. The calcification, or hardening of the teeth begins at a very early stage when the child is in the mother's womb. The foetus must get all its nutriments from the mother. Hence, if the child should develop strong teeth, the mother should take a well balanced diet. The proper food for the expectant mother would be plenty of milk, vegetables and fruits. Polished rice must not be taken. Brown rice or bread made out of whole wheat is strongly recommended. Eggs, meat, fish, etc., must be sparingly taken. If the habit of coffee or tea cannot be given up, it is advisable that she should take about a cup per day. In addition, plenty of water should be taken. When the baby is born, it is necessary [illegible]at the baby should be breast-fed. [illegible] feeding supplies all the necessary [illegible]dients to build up the general health as well as the teeth. If breast feeding is not possible, modified cow's milk can be given. The cow's milk does not supply all the required materials for the growth of the child and hence it will be helpful to supplement its food with about half a teaspoonful of cod liver oil. Bottle feeding has this disadvantage, that it does not provide adequate exercise to them as the baby sucks the milk. Even when the child has grown up, milk should form one of its daily foods to ensure proper development of the teeth.

To possess regular teeth in the jaws, the eruption of the teeth in the mouth must be carefully watched. From the sixth month, the child may be given a bone to chew. This will harden the gums and help the baby to cut its first teeth quite easily. Thumb sucking and lip biting by the children must be prevented, otherwise irregular teeth will be the result. Thumb sucking could be prevented by wrapping the thumb by means of an adhesive tape. As far as possible, temporary teeth must not be prematurely extracted. Early extraction of temporary teeth causes malformation of jaws. If the permanent teeth begin to erupt in an unusual place due to the presence of milk dentition, the latter may be extracted by a qualified dentist; otherwise it is quite possible that the baby teeth remain persistent in the mouth for a number of years side by side with the permanent teeth presenting a very unwholesome appearance. In cases where permanent teeth have erupted irregularly, the dentist can still bring them to natural order and beauty by simple orthodentia appliances without causing any pain or trouble to the individual.

Teeth may be quite strong and they may be regularly arranged in the jaws; but if they are not kept clean and are covered with tartar and putrefying food material, the danger of diseases still exists. The simplest and the easiest way to keep the teeth clean, is to brush the teeth morning and at night just before retiring with a good toothpaste. As soon a baby has erupted two or three teeth, its teeth may be brushed by a small tooth brush and the habit may be continued. The brushing of the teeth must be done from the gums to the edges of the teeth. Special attention must be given to the teeth on the inner side of the jaws and the interspaces of the teeth. After cleaning the teeth with the brush the mouth should be washed by a mouth wash available in the market under well known trade marks. Table salt also serves the purpose of mouth wash quite effectively. After cleaning, the brush must be suspended in an antiseptic solution such as, "Dettol". Before using the brush, it should be dried up. No brush should be used for a period longer than two months. Brushing of the teeth just before retiring at night is of great importance and nothing should be taken by mouth after this. When an individual is having a thick deposit of tartar, it is necessary that it should be scaled by a dentist, before he begins the habit of using a tooth brush. Course and rough tooth powders are always injurious to the teeth and they should not be used.

Finally, teeth must be well used by chewing food properly. Food of fibrous and course nature, give good exercise to the teeth and gums, allowing a free flow of saliva, which not only helps digestion but also cleanses the teeth and keeps them in healthy state. If chewing is difficult, the dentist must immediately be consulted. Chewing of betel leaves and nuts, a common habit among our people, is highly injurious to the teeth and must invariably be avoided.

Good health greatly depends on good teeth. It is in our hands to prevent bodily ailments and keep up health and happiness. By following the simple facts mentioned here, the teeth can surely take care of the person's health.

Parboiled *vs.* Milled Rice

It is necessary during the present food shortage to conserve as much food as possible. This becomes more important in rice which is the staple cereal of a large percentage of the population of Madras Presidency. The maximum outturn of rice from the same amount of paddy can be got by adopting two measures, viz., (1) parboiling and (2) under-milling.

The average paddy grain consists of 23 to 25 per cent husk, 1 to 2 per cent cuticle and germ and 74 to 76 per cent kernel. Hence, normally a paddy grain ought to yield about 74 per cent of saleable products. In the official estimates of yield which is always expressed as rice, paddy is reckoned to yield $66\frac{2}{3}$ per cent. The proportion of the various products, i.e., rice, broken rice and bran resulting from the hulling of paddy vary according to the methods used and the type variety of the grain itself.

The results of certain studies on quality in rice show that—

(*a*) Parboiled rice in an unpolished or moderately polished state is very similar in composition to the corresponding variety of raw or untreated rice.

(*b*) A number of commercial samples of raw and parboiled milled rices collected in South India have shown, on analysis that the parboiled varieties are somewhat richer in protein and minerals than raw milled rice. This is stated to be due possibly to the lesser degree of polishing given to the parboiled type.

(*c*) Storage experiments to determine the keeping quality of raw and parboiled rices have also demonstrated the superiority of parboiled rice.

(*d*) During the course of preparation for cooking, it is normally the custom to wash the rice in one or more changes of fresh water. Parboiled rice even on being repeatedly washed, loses less nitrogen or phosphorus than raw rice polished to the same extent. Less water soluble constituents passed out of parboiled rice on being cooked than raw rice.

(*e*) With regard to the relative distribution of nitrogen and phosphorous in raw and parboiled rices, investigations have shown that at least 50 per cent of the phosphorous, about 20 per cent of the nitrogen are localised in the germ and the bran and are, in consequence, lost to a very large extent during the course of milling. On parboiling a proportion of the nitrogen and phosphorous originally present in the germ and in the bran diffuse into the interior of the grain [taken from Report on the Marketing of Rice in India and Burma (1941), Marketing Series No. 27, page 116].

Milling quality.—The research into this aspect has yielded the following results :—

"Parboiling invariably improves the milling quality of raw rice. But the milling quality varies largely between different treatments of parboiling. The different varieties of rice also respond very differently on parboiling in regard to milling quality. Longer periods of soaking (48 to 72 hours) together with steaming at 15 lb. for 15 minutes gave uniformly better results for milling quality with all the varieties studied steaming for longer periods results in greater breakages."

Research work carried out in the Nutrition Research Laboratories has [illegible] that parboiled rice retains more vitamin B, and nicotonic acid content even when milled to as high as 15 or 20 per cent.

One other advantage of parboiling is " rice just harvested can be immediately consumed if the paddy is parboiled, whereas unboiled paddy must be kept for a few months before consumption ; this fact gives parboiled rice some advantage when stocks are short."

Also it is common experience that cooked parboiled rice keeps fresh for longer time than cooked raw rice. The question of the use of raw and parboiled rices has been discussed in the Rice Marketing Report and extracts are given below :—

"*Raw and parboiled.*—It was found for example, in the course of this survey that the likes and dislikes of rice eaters were not only strongly defined but that no cogent reasons could be given by consumers to account for their tastes. The universal reply given to enquiries on this point was that the variety of rice to which they had become accustomed agreed with them and that any other kind of rice was indigestible.

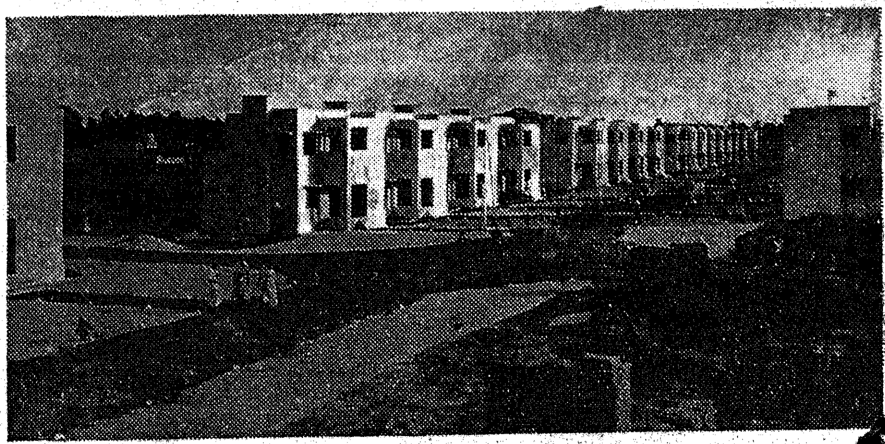
It is sometimes thought that parboiled rice is not acceptable to orthodox Hindus on account of their religious susceptibilities being offended by the process to which the paddy is subjected prior to milling. The fact is that the number of orthodox Hindus who really object to eating parboiled rice is relatively small. Broadly speaking therefore where any objection to parboiled rice prevails, it occurs only in those parts where rice is not the staple food grain and that only to a relatively limited extent.

As a general rule, parboiled rice is cheaper than untreated rice of the same variety for the reason that the parboiling hardens the kernel and enables a greater extraction of what may be termed, "head rice," i.e., whole grains. Apart from other price lowering factors, the presence of broken grains seriously detracts from the value of the rice, and in this respect, parboiled rice has a decided superiority as it generally contains a relatively small proportion of brokens. It is for this reason that parboiled rice can usually be sold rather cheaper than untreated rice of the same variety and quality.

Parboiled cooked rice does not turn sour and is in fact quite palatable after 36 hours' keeping and particularly, if heated up. It is significant that where conditions of labour are such as to preclude cooking more than once a day as for example, in the tea gardens and rubber plantations, parboiled rice is favoured on account of its characteristic feature of keeping well.

A factor formerly associated with parboiled rice was an unpleasant sour or acid odour. Although this defect still occurs in certain types, it has largely been eliminated by improved technique. It should be noted however, that after boiling the cooked rice generally shows no signs of any unpleasant odour which may have been present in the uncooked state.

The consumption of parboiled rice has increased considerably in the past 15 or 20 years in India.



A block of buildings at Shenoy Nagar, Madras.

The Role of Public Libraries in Educating the Masses

By R. JANARDHANAM NAIDU, B.A., L.T., D.E. (OXON.,) D.L.S. (LOND.), Librarian, the Connemara Public Library

[The Government have planned a net-work of libraries in the Province. Some details of this scheme have been published on the last issue. In this context Mr. Janardhanam Naidu's article on the subject will be of special interest.]

The first step that every progressive country in the world has adopted to spread enlightenment among its people is to introduce free and compulsory primary education on a nation-wide basis. This is indeed a golden remedy to dispel ignorance among the people, but this measure is fraught with a great deal of limitation. If the period for imparting such free education is for five years or perhaps utmost for seven years, in the early stages of the country's low financial stablity it cannot be beyond five years and the opportunity for learning after that is not afforded to youngsters who emerge from the schools, the education imparted for the five or the seven years will go to literal waste, as, due to lack of chances to read books, they will all lapse into illiteracy, becoming more and more intense as time marches on. Therefore the country should deeply engage its attention to adopt measures to prevent the boys and girls who stop with the education received in elementary schools to lapse themselves into a life-long illiteracy. This view was very well impressed on us by the present Vice-Chancellor of the Madras University when speaking on the Importance of Adult Education he said, "Adult education is not merely adult literacy work but it is a continuation of education a student has received in his earlier years."

Throughout the length and breadth of this country libraries should be established in urban and rural areas for the people to go to them during their spare hours to occupy themselves, to keep alive the knowledge already acquired and to enrich it from day to day. The following are some of the chief aims of the libraries :—

1. They relieve the tedium of the idle hours quite irrespective of intellectual profits or educational gain. It is sufficient, to satisfy this purpose, that the rural inhabitant should be rendered a happier (but not necessarily a more learned) man by the provision which is made for him.

2. It secures the taste for good language initially acquired in the elementary school, to keep it alive and develop it by a provision of good [illegible]ature after school years have

3. It enables the rural inhabitant to acquire without difficulty that general knowledge which alone can enable him to appreciate to the full what he sees and hears.

4. It imparts that knowledge of public affairs and of the history of his own neighbourhood which a citizen must possess if he is to perform with intelligence his duties as a member of the community ultimately responsible for the Government of the village, taluk, district, province and the country.

5. It provides facilities for the study of the arts, trades and professsions which constitute the occupation of the inhabitants.

6. It removes as far as possible all obstacles from the path of the serious student of any subject.

The most phenomenal advance of Great Britain in spite of the much devastating wars that overtook the country again and again, is due to the establishment of a net work of libraries throughout the length and breadth of the country. The following two extracts will amply prove how rich this country is in its library service to its people :—

"It was nearly a hundred years ago that the first steps were taken to provide a public library service. In 1850 the Public Libraries Act empowered boroughs with a population of over ten thousand to build a library if two-thirds of the rate-payers consented, but they were not allowed to spend a greater sum of money than would be raised by a rate of a half penny in the pound. This money was to be spent on buildings only, not on books, but despite this difficulty a number of towns (Norwich was the first) provided libraries for their inhabitants. Five years later the sum that local authorities were able to spend was doubled, but it was not until 1919 that they were allowed to spend as much as they liked.

All towns of any size now have their libraries, many of them housed in magnificient buildings, where readers can browse at leisure and choose from the shelves the books they wish to read. Sometimes there is a special selection set apart for boys and girls ; there are reading rooms containing newspapers and periodicals ; and often there is a reference library where students may consult the books they need for their work.

A good library is expensive, indeed too expensive for small towns and villages, which had no provision made for them until 1919. In that year county councils were given power to set up libraries, and to-day even hamlets in the depths of the country can receive, at regular intervals, parcels of books from the central county library.

As standards of education improve, so do greater numbers of people realise the joy and profit that good books can provide, and there can be no doubt that as our educational services develop so the need for bigger and better libraries will become evident."

Public Libraries.—Library authorities in Great Britain and Northern Ireland have more than doubled since the date of the first Public Libraries Act in 1850. To-day there are over 600 urban and county library authorities and, out of the total population of Great Britain, only some 350,000 people live in areas with no public libraries. Public libraries are maintained from local rates and are under the management of the Public Libraries Committee of the Town or County Council. In the counties, this Committee is a sub-committee of the Education Committee. In counties, books are sent to more remote areas by means of travelling libraries in vans, and boxes of books are sent to local schools, village clubs and institutes from the county library. There are now 19,000 such centres.

Now that India is free, its ambition should not be behind Great Britain in opening libraries throughout the country. Presiding over the All India Seventh Library Conference in January 1946, Sir Azizul Haque (former Government of India Commerce Member) emphasized the importance of extending library service to one and all the villages in this country. The responsible Government of Bombay Province have stated very emphatically that it is a part of their educational reform to maintain a la[illegible]

throughout the Province. The following is their statement :—

"It is proposed to assist in a larger measure the Bombay City Adult Education Committee in the field of adult education and the Government propose to follow the adult literacy campaign by post literacy classes and by maintenance of a large number of libraries."

The Province of Madras, as in many other affairs, has now come forward to give a bold lead to the whole of Free India in the matter of library service to its people. Very soon a Public Library Bill will be on the anvil of the Madras Legislature and before long passed into a Library Act which will enable the whole province to open libraries in urban and rural areas. The "Hindu" of Madras under the caption "Education Policy," dated 26th June 1947, has brought out a brilliant editorial which the whole of Free India should read and read again. I quote the relevant portion about the Library Service in Free India :

"The proposals made by the Education Minister to provide for adult education in all ways and, particularly by providing a national library service through out the Province are commendable ; for, if the libraries are worked efficiently, the problem of wastage will be reduced to smaller proportions than it is. It will also, by making facilities for self-learning available, prove a valuable post-school education agency. It is unfortunate that our accustomed centres of learning, culture and enlightenment the temples and their appurtenances, the chattrams have been allowed to fall into desuetude. If the village library can be made to take their place, that will be an achievement . . ."

The harvest is "verily" plentiful but the labourers are few. If enough labourers are forthcoming we can reap in Free India a very rich harvest of enlightenment and continue to do so until eternity. The reformation must come from within. More enactment cannot establish the "Paradise" we have been seeking for. Self help is the best help. All of us must contribute freely to make Free India fragrant by the aid of myriads of libraries. Little drops of water make the mighty oceans. Apart from individual payment by way of rates, great philanthropists must come forward with generous gifts, to express in action how happy they are to live in Free India and to keep it free for ever and ever. The charming libraries of Great Britain owe a great deal to private benefactors like Andrew Carnegie. It is only when the Government of that country saw how much the country has improved by such libraries supported by private donation, that they came forward to establish them on secure basis so that when private help was no longer available they may not recede into the background and make the country bankrupt. To-day the private and the public help make the libraries in Great Britain perform yeoman service to the entire population of the country. Will Free India be behind her companion (Great Britain) in its service to her free people ? The answer should be an emphatic "No" not by word, but by deed, that is by establishing a net work of libraries throughout the country by all possible means.

Railway Statistics

South Indian Railway

The details of public train miles for December 1947 as compared with December 1946 are as follows :—

Public train miles.	*December* 1946.	*December* 1947.
Coaching ..	712,932	889,507
Goods	237,571	266,461
	950,503	1,155,968

Christmas specials were run between 23rd and 31st December 1947 to the extent of 5,472 train miles.

The details of traffic both coaching and goods carried during the month of December 1947, as compared with the corresponding month of last year and the previous month are given below. *

The increase in coaching earnings compared to the previous year is due to the introduction of additional trains, increase in fares and the Vaikunta Ekadasi festival and Christmas, and the increase when compared to the previous month is due to the Vaikunta Ekadasi festival and Christmas.

The increase in goods earnings compared to the previous year is due to greater movement of coal, oilseeds, timber and other goods, while the decrease in comparison with November 1947 is due to less movement of grain and pulses, oilseeds, cotton, timber, coal and other goods.

		December 1946.	*December* 1947.	*November* 1947.
* Coaching traffic—				
Number of passengers ..		9,240,582	13,174,129	12,856,210
Earnings	Rs.	61,20,345	70,93,100	69,51,763
Goods traffic—				
Weight in tons		510,639	508,666	483,693
Earnings	Rs.	43,67,654	46,08,105	46,91,200

M. & S. M. Railway—December 1947

There was increase of train miles under coaching and goods during December 1947, compared with December 1946 as shown below :—

	December. 1946.	1947.
Coaching ..	699,000	724,000
Goods ..	511,000	536,000

The following are the comparative figures of approximate earnings and volumes of passenger and goods traffic.

Earnings.	*December.* 1946.	1947.
Coaching.	68,42,000	71,48,000
Goods ..	58,00,000	66,01,000
Miscellaneous.	2,09,000	2,00,000
Total ..	1,28,51,000	1,39,49,000
* *Volume of traffic.*		
Number of passengers.	6,418,000	6,260,000
Goods traffic (Tons).	408,000	416[illegible]

Reports from Districts

Rural Exhibition in Tanjore

[The educative and publicity value of exhibitions is an undisputed fact. In modern times they are effective vehicles for dissemenating knowledge among the masses. In the sphere of rural reconstruction it is especially valuable. Practical experience in this country itself has demonstrated its serviceability. The Punjab was one of the first Provinces in India to take to active rural reconstruction work after the first World War. Mr. Brayne who was in charge of this work has testified to the efficacy of exhibition in putting across ideas and things in the sphere of village reconstruction.

A Rural Exhibition was held at Saliyamangalam in Tanjore district during December 1947. The various departments of the Government co-operated in making the exhibition a success. About 5,000 people attended the exhibition. The several departments had their stalls in which they exhibited their products.

Agricultural Department.—It exhibited the various farm seeds and agricultural implements. Charts and posters explaining the advantages of using improved seeds and modern agricultural implements were also exhibited. Seedbeds in which various classes of green manure were grown were also exhibited. The method of preparing composite manures was demonstrated.

Veterinary Department.—Breeding bulls of Sindhi, Umbalachery and Murra buffalo types were kept in the exhibition room for service. A poultry section containing profitable types of fowls was also exhibited. The various veterinary instruments were exhibited and their uses were also explained. An incubator for hatching of eggs was also kept. About 12 cows were served. One hundred bulls were castrated and 300 animals were treated in the exhibition rooms. The dairy expert projected films and slides about the scientific and economical ways of running milk dairies.

Health Department.—Various charts on essential points of health and food value of several diets were exhibited. A model flush-out latrine was laid out in the exhibition. A hand pounding chukkie was also demonstrated by the Department.

Industries Department.—Hand power and machine power pumps and boring sets and tools were exhibited by this department.

Prohibition (Amelioration) Department.—Several attractive pictures, cartoons and posters and slogans on the ..ls of drink and the benefits of ... and thrift were exhibited.

District Board Industrial School.—Various finished products of pottery, furniture, cloth, toys, paper, cardboards etc., produced in this institution were exhibited, and they commanded good sales. Demonstration on paper-making, pottery, lacquing were also held. There was also a stall on honey culture put up by the district board.

Kumbakonam Electric Supply Corporation.—A well laid out model village with electricity and protected water-supply, etc., was exhibited. A saw mill working on electrical power and an electrically driven machine for making types from thread were also exhibited.

Kumbakonam Shoe-making Co-operative Society.—Various designs and types and patterns of shoes, sandals, belts, purses, etc., manufactured by this society were exhibited.

All-India Spinning Association (Tanjore).—Sri A. Sambasivam Pillai of A.I.S.A. with his band of workers exhibited with demonstrations the process of " cotton to cloth ".

Propaganda.—Officers of the various departments and leading non-officials delivered popular lectures every evening on agriculture, health, prohibition, thrift, co-operation, cottage industries, etc.

Firka Tournment.—Tournments were held, during the week of the exhibition. A number of villagers participated in the tournment. Twelve teams in Chadugudu, four teams in KHO KHO and four teams in Nondi. played. Exhibitions of Kummi, Kollattam, Bajana, Kadhaprasangham, Kalachepam, folk dance, Kuravan Kurathi dance, Idayan Idaichi parley, Adum Karaham, etc., were conducted. Two village dramas Valli and Nandanar were staged in the week. Exhibitions of weight lifting feats and asanas by the members of Arthur Institute, Mariammankoil, were held on two days of the week. At a meeting presided over by the Sessions Judge, Tanjore, Mrs. McLaughlin distributed prizes and certificates of merit to the several winners.

Uplift work in Prohibition Districts

The following is a brief summary of the reports received about the ameliorative activities in the prohibition districts in the Province. These reports continue to show that increasing attention is being paid to the social side of prohibition and tangible results are being achieved. Critics who still doubt about the social and economic benefits of prohibition may find ample disillusionment in these reports.

Salem District.—During the first week of December, there was a badminton tournament in which 27 teams took part. A volley ball court was opened at Elampalli. The annual Grigg's Memorial sports were held in the Board High School grounds and were largely attended by all including ex-addicts. The Village Uplift Sangham, Gollahalli, decided to form a village road and formed a milk supply society. Five hundred and twenty feet of drainage at a cost of Rs. 1,400 was constructed at two other places. Two private latrines were also constructed. Manure pits were dug and tree cuttings were planted in Veerapandi firka. During the second week of December, the Revenue Divisional Officer, Salem, opened a volley ball court and the Special Development Officer, a Village Uplift Sangham. During the week, 11 Grama Sanghams of Yercaud taluk were ispected and the Village Officers were instructed to collect more subscriptions and repair foot-paths. Toddy tappers were advised to form co-operative societies. A firka tournament as well as a tourname.. in rural games and sports were co.. ducted during the latter part of December. There was an intere... programme of Chadugudu... long jump, ...

the pot, etc., etc., and competitions were held in community songs, kummi and kolattam, etc. Grama sanghams continued to do useful work. They are being periodically inspected. One grama sangham is collecting Rs. 144 annually to meet the charges for supply of electricity for 8 street lights. Ten ex-addicts were admitted free to cinemas at two places. Prohibition meetings were also addressed during the month and speeches stressing the value of rural uplift work were also made.

Coimbatore.—Foundation stones were laid for two reading rooms by the Revenue Divisional Officer, Erode. The villagers have promised to contribute liberally towards the construction of these reading rooms. A firka tournament was held during the first week of December, in which a large number of villagers took part and the main events were Chadugudu, tug-of-war, sack-fight, folk dance, etc. The Collector spoke among other things on the aims and methods of rural uplift. A divisional tournament was held on 5th December 1947 at Gobichettipalayam and about 600 villagers participated in the various events. Seventeen teams competed for Chadugudu alone. About 8,000 villagers including non-officials attended the tournament. An exhibition was also held during the first week of December on a fairly large scale. There were 50 stalls in all. Exhibits relating to paintings, embroidery, work, khadi thread, charkas, varieties of vegetables, hand-woven clothes were displayed. Pamphlets on the advantage of National Savings and Adult Education were distributed. Cattle like stud bulls, cows, calves, buffaloes, horses, sheep, goats and hens were also exhibited. The Agricultural, Veterinary, Forest and Health departments took a prominent part in the exhibition. There was also during second the week of December the taluk tournament and exhibition at Kollegal. This was in connection with the valedictory function of the 5th Rural Uplift School at the place. The Collector spoke on the aim and work of grama seva sanghams. There was also another firka tournament at Puliampatti. The Collector inspected a number of grama sanghams during the period. They continue to do useful work, and the public are enthusiastic co-operating with these sanghams. One sangham has formed a road. [illegible] musical instruments [illegible] conducting bhajanas. [illegible] formed a road [illegible]0.

The same sangham has repaired a public draw-well as well as a Harijan well. The Collector switched on the radio privately purchased by the sangham. The Nallur Sangham has also formed a road 1½ miles in length at a cost of Rs. 2,000. It also has a library. Other public utility activities of the sanghams include the undertaking to construct a compound wall for a park at a cost of Rs. 3,000. The 5th Rural Uplift School at Kollegal which was opened on 8th November 1947 closed on 8th December 1947. Fifty-three students attended the school course. Fifty-one students passed in the first examination. There was also a group village tournament in which 2,000 people took part. The Harijans and caste Hindus mixed freely. There were other group tournaments also during the month. The Thalamalai Grama Sangham has repaired a public well and has formed a road to a distance of half a mile.

South Kanara.—During the first week of December, the thrift campaign was inaugurated in two places. The Puttur Town Co-operative Banks distributed 82 hundi boxes. Two more societies for coconut, jaggery manufacture were registered during the week.

The societies are expected to privide employment for 200 tappers.

Bellary.—Rural games pertaining to self-defence were played by the students of the Rural Uplift School at Hospet. Two dramas one by the Rural Uplift School at Hospet and the other by the Village Betterment Committee were enacted during the month. A milk society was also organized.

Chittoor.—Rural games were conducted as usual in all the three divisions of the district. Further, 3 firka tournaments were also held. These tournaments were largely attended, and there were a number interesting events. Thrift days were celebrated in three villages. The total collections amounted to Rs. 440-10-0. One of the members who saved bought an iron plough. Another grama sangham celebrated its anniversary during which a drama was enacted. The usual entertainments and amusements were given prominence during the tournaments and one special feature was that the Harijans played an important and active part. In Madanapalle division, a sum of Rs. 115-5-11 was collected in hundi boxes by 8 grama sanghams. The 4th Rural Uplift School closed on 15th December 1947 and in this connexion, there was an exhibition and a district tournament. During the third week of December, 4 grama sanghams were newly organized. Some grama sanghams purchased first-aid medicines and distributed them free to the villagers. These grama sanghams have also put up sign boards indicating the names of the villages and their distances from the main roads. During the week 84 hundi boxes were distributed and a sum of Rs. 36-14-9 was collected in the boxes. A thrift day was also celebrated by one grama sangham.

Anantapur.—Thrift day celebrations took place in three places and the occasions were availed of to exhort the people to cultivate thrift habit. A cattle breeding co-operative society was organized during the second week of December.

Cuddapah.—During the first week of December, the Deputy Commissioner of Amelioration toured the district with a view to examining the possibilities of organizing co-operative milk societies. He also visited the Women's Thrift Society at Proddatur and presided over the sports and games arranged there. Faction in a village was composed through the good offices of the Assistant Development Officer.

Trichinopoly.—Arrangements were made to admit 14 ex-tappers in a milk supply co-operative society at Worayur. A milk supply-cum-jaggery supply society which will absorb 12 ex-tappers was organized in Musiri taluk. Four societies were also organized in Karur taluk. These have absorbed 130 ex-tappers. Hundi boxes were opened on the thrift day in the co-operrative society at Marudur. During the week ended 22nd December 1947, 16 jaggery-makers' co-operative societies were organized. They are expected to give employment to 694 tappers. A sum of Rs. 6,940 has been collected as share capital.

Kurnool.—The Rural Recreation Officer, Markapur, conducted rural games during the first week of December. There were bhajanas also in some villages. Street cleanliness days were conducted in two places. The Assistant Development Officer conducted thrift day celebrations in two places. Two reading rooms were opened during the week. Reading of Ramayana in some villages was also arranged.

Tanjore.—A co-operative milk supply society was opened in Tanjore taluk. This is the third of the series of co-operative milk societies organized in Tanjore division by the Ameliroative staff for the benefit of ex-tappers and the ex-addicts. There was a fir[illegible] tournament in the first week of Dec[illegible]ber under the Village Upl[illegible]

(*Continued on page* [illegible]

Books and Publications

Information for the Mere Asking

[**TOPICAL PAMPHLETS** published by the Department of Information and Publicity, Government of Madras, available free.]

The Department of Information and Publicity, Government of Madras has published a number of pamphlets on topical subjects. These pamphlets are informative and are useful for all classes of people—public servants, professionals and the general mass of the intelligenzia. These are distributed free and are available with the Director of Information and Publicity.

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The Hyderabad Government's Bulletin on Economic Affairs relating to December 1947 is a neatly got up publication running to more than 250 pages. It contains a wealth of statistics and information especially about the economic affairs of the Hyderabad State as well as a bird's eye view of things elsewhere. Editorial notes, special articles, news in brief, extracts from speeches of members of the Hyderabad Government are among the prominent features of this journal. The journal will be particularly valuable to research students, social workers and publicists and similar classes of people and its publication is quite in accord with the policy of modern Governments—a lavish dissemmination of information as a primary means of educating public opinion.

(*Continued from page* 30)

organized by the Rural Recreation Officer. A number of indigenous games were played. A night school for adult education in one of the villages in Mayavaram taluk was opened.

North Arcot.—A Firka Development Association was formed at Kannamangalam.

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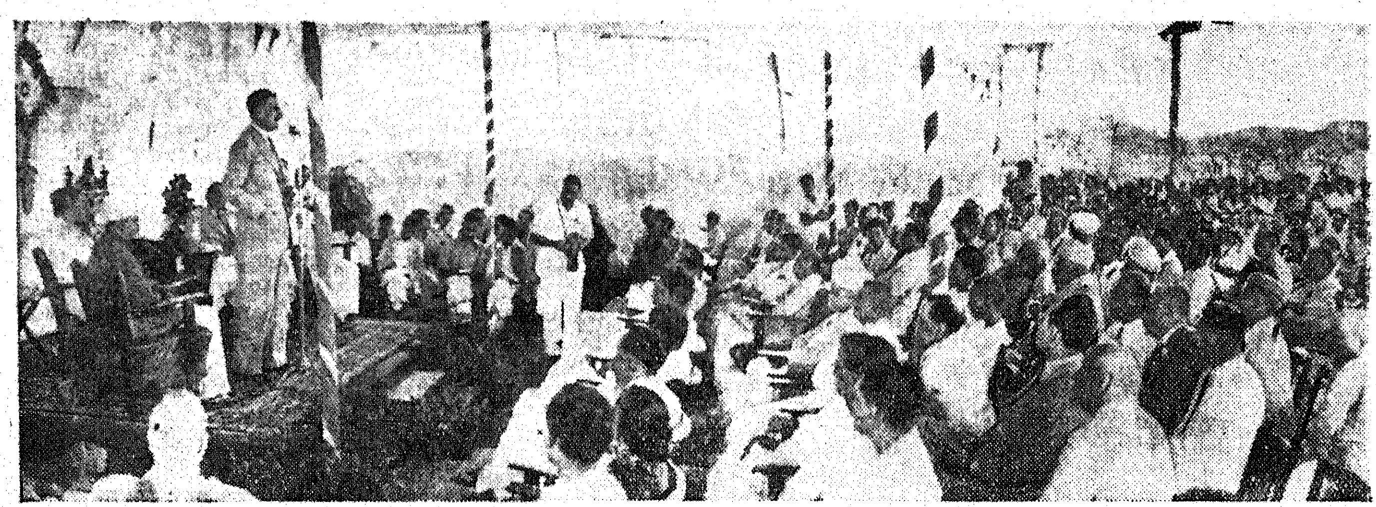

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18 FEB 1.

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Her Excellency Lady Nye with the organizers of the Health Drive at the Pudupet Slums

FEB 1948

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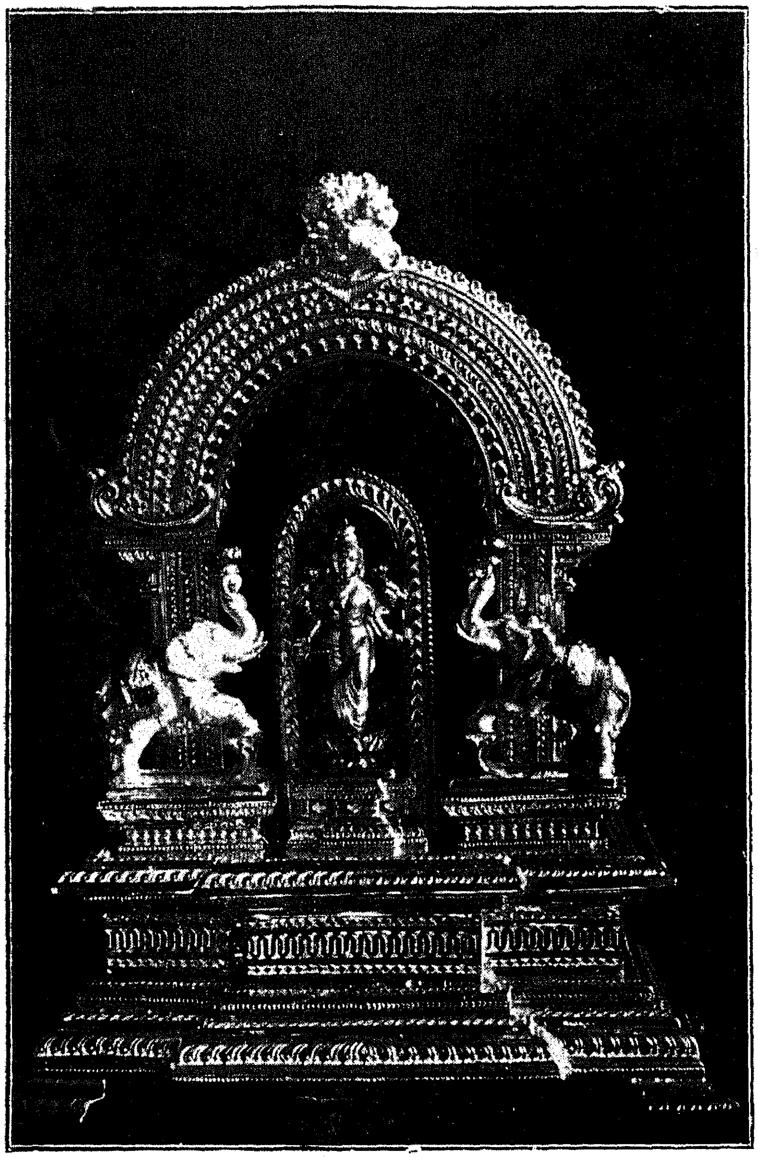

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